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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 24th MEETING

Chairman:	Mr. KRENKEL	(Austria)
later:	Mr. DEKANY (Vice-Chairman)	(Hungary)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 94: ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (continued) (A/47/38, A/47/82-S/23512, A/47/88-S/23563, A/47/340, 368, 377, 391, 508 and 564)

1. Mrs. RAOELINA (Madagascar) said that women represented a major human resource in Madagascar, since they constituted the majority of the workforce. Though the Constitution and laws provided women with the same rights as men, those provisions were not fully implemented because of residual discrimination stemming from traditional practices. Often, women were unaware of their rights under the law, and increasing their legal literacy should become a global priority. Furthermore, all women must receive a basic level of education in order to fulfil their role as educators of children.

2. Her delegation regretted the lack of progress in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women for the period up to the year 2000 in the priority areas of equality, development and peace and the subthemes employment, health and education. In the developing countries, particularly in Africa, poverty, malnutrition, illiteracy, unemployment and poor economic conditions continued to be obstacles to their implementation. The 1995 World Conference on Women should determine the measures to be taken to remove those obstacles. Its principal goal should be the improvement of the well-being of women in all areas, particularly in health, education and economic participation. Although it was the responsibility of each State to define the role of women in its national development, the international community, through concerted efforts, should provide favourable conditions for the achievement of those development goals.

The meeting was suspended at 10.15 a.m. and resumed at 10.20 a.m.

3. Mr. SERGIWA (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that despite the vital role played by women in the process of socio-economic development, their unequal status remained unchanged in many countries and they were still grossly underrepresented in public life. As stated in the Secretary-General's report on the advancement of women (A/47/377), the elimination of de facto and de jure discrimination against women would require visible political and economic commitment by Governments and non-governmental organizations. His Government affirmed the importance of eliminating that discrimination, acknowledging women's rights and ensuring that women took part in decision-making and were fully integrated in development activities. In that connection, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women had played a commendable role; he therefore hoped that those States which had not already acceded to the Convention would soon do so.

4. Member States, government agencies and non-governmental organizations should ensure swift implementation of the ambitious programmes contained in the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies. With that aim in mind, his delegation had supported convening the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995. It

(Mr. Sergiwa, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

thanked the Government of China for offering to host the Conference, and noted that it should be well-prepared to ensure its success.

5. The elimination of violence against women, which was a viclation of basic human rights, was a prerequisite if women were to achieve equality and enjoy their rights and freedoms. His delegation therefore supported the efforts made in that direction by the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and hoped that the draft declaration drawn up by the working group of the Commission would be supported by the General Assembly at its next session. It also welcomed the decisions reached by the Third Committee concerning the situation of women living under occupation or racist regimes. In that connection, he referred to Economic and Social Council resolutions 15/1992 and 16/1992, which called upon the regimes in South Africa and the occupied Palestinian territories respectively to take various forms of action aimed at improving the situation of the women and children living in those areas, which was the consequence of repressive government measures.

6. His delegation commended the efforts of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) to help women in developing countries, particularly in Africa, to acquire the skills and expertise which would enable them to participate more fully and vigorously in the development process. It also praised the work of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) for its work over the past year related to training and study grants, as well as documentation and statistics on the advancement of women. It likewise supported measures designed to improve the status of women in the United Nations Secretariat and increase the number of women employees, particularly in decision-making posts. In that respect, women from the developing countries, who were currently under-represented, should have equal representation with those from the developed countries.

7. In contrast with the situation in the past, Libyan women today enjoyed full rights under legislation designed to eliminate discrimination against women. Women were now excluded only from laborious or dangerous tasks. The free universal education system in Libya also played a significant role in enhancing women's ability to take decisions and compete with men on an equal basis. Libya was committed to implementing the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, to which it had acceded in 1989, and had achieved a great deal of progress in the advancement of women. As members of popular congresses, trade unions and professional associations, Libyan women participated on an equal footing with men in the decision-making process. They also had the same employment opportunities as men, even occupying top decision-making positions, as well as the right of ownership and the right to bear arms in defence of self, family and country.

(Mr. Sergiwa, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

8. He concluded by praising the efforts of the Division for the Advancement of Women in Vienna to promote implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies, and expressed the hope that it would receive the financial and human resources support needed to enable it to complete its tasks.

9. Ms. FRECHETTE (Canada) said that her delegation welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat (A/47/508), and looked forward to the timely implementation in its recommendations. Her delegation was disappointed at the decrease in the number of women at senior levels in the Secretariat over the past year, since the United Nations should be a leader in their integration into the decision-making process. Canada hoped that the resolution it would introduce on that subject would receive full support. The guidelines on sexual harassment to be issued by the Secretary-General must be in conformity with the highest standards established in Member States. The United Nations, as the protector of human rights throughout the world, must serve as a model in protecting the rights of its own staff.

10. Canada had recently submitted its third report on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). More than 80 substantive reservations had been registered against the Convention, diminishing its impact. Her delegation encouraged countries to review their reservations in the hope of reducing that number. It also supported the recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women that the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women should meet for three weeks each year until its backlog of reports had been liquidated.

11. Women's rights were an integral and indivisible part of universal human rights, and must be respected as such before any society could develop its political, social and economic potential. Canada, therefore, supported retaining an explicit reference to the full realization of all human rights of women and men in the agenda for the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights. Similarly, issues related to the advancement of women should be incorporated in the agendas of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, the preparations for the International Year of the Family and the proposed world summit on social development in 1995.

12. Violence against women remained among the most pervasive and serious manifestations of human rights abuse. Canada welcomed the draft declaration on violence against women discussed at the recent inter-sessional meeting of the Working Group on Violence Against Women of the Commission on the Status of Women. The definition of arrived at by the Working Group would pave the way for the effective application of international human rights law in that area. Adoption of the draft declaration would be a universal acknowledgement of the existence of violence against women and would provide guidance to States, international organizations and non-governmental organizations.

(Ms. Frechette, Canada)

13. Canada strongly supported the 1995 World Conference on Women as an opportunity to evaluate the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies and to plan how the task of achieving equality between women and men could be completed. Her delegation looked forward to the early appointment of a secretary-general of the conference to guide the preparatory work. Canada also strongly supported the work of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and of the focal point for women in the Secretariat, and reiterated the need for adequate human and financial resources to support those vital activities.

14. Mr. LECOGE (Botswana) said that the Government of Botswana recognized that progress in national development required the maximum participation of women in all its economic and social aspects. With that in mind, as early as 1981, the Government had established the Women's Affairs Division within the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs, with the overall objective of facilitating the integration of women in development. With 80 per cent of the total population of Botswana living in rural areas and in economy based on agriculture, the bulk of farming was done by women. In addition, women were in the majority in administration. An interesting trend had developed in the construction business, with an increasing number of women employed as manual workers, mostly in urban centres, an indication that women were gradually gaining access to previously male-dominated sectors of the economy.

15. Despite the advances, the full participation of women in development continued to be hampered by a range of legal and economic constraints, including traditional attitudes that perpetuated their inferior status. While women outnumbered males, they occupied a disproportionate number of low-status positions, and few managed to climb the ladder to high-paying and high-status jobs. Politically, although the majority of voters were women, they still had difficulty reaching high political office; hence very few were involved in the decision-making process.

16. The availability of formal education for women was an area of concern to the Government and to development scholars. Women played a pivotal role in informal education, especially the socialization of the young, and helped elevate the literacy rate. However, formal schooling, while it was not the panacea for all social disparities, it was among the most important areas of development and could help to remedy social inequality.

17. Ms. Valle (Cuba) commended the work of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and congratulated the States that had become parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. Much remained to be done, however, to overcome persistent discrimination against women and the obstacles to their participation in decision-making. Only an equitable international economic and social order would bring about real improvements in the status of women and the achievement of the goals of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace.

(Ms. Valle, Cuba)

18. Her delegation applauded the work of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), and of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), especially its Participatory Action Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean (PAPLAC), focused on subregional strategies, the identification of new regional partners and assessment of associations, and the identification and linking of projects within subregional programmes.

19. Her delegation supported the holding of the Fourth World Conference on Women, emphasizing the importance of preparatory activities and the role of the Commission on the Status of Women in organizing the Conference and planning a comprehensive working strategy. It joined other delegations in supporting that Commission's resolution 36/8 and urged the prompt appointment of a secretary-general of the Conference. The Conference should, moreover, be given sufficient resources and publicity, both at the preparatory stage and during the Conference itself. The Division for the Advancement of Women should be strengthened in anticipation of the work to prepare the relevant documentation. In that connection, the substantial structural changes in the Secretariat, particularly in the area of social development gave cause for concern, especially with regard to the mechanisms that would be responsible for improving efficiency and maintaining of high standard of work.

20. She concluded by noting that the revolutionary process in her country had enabled Cuban women to enjoy the tangible benefits to which women elsewhere in the world aspired.

21. Ms. DE MIRANDA (Suriname) said that implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women appeared to have lost impetus in recent years. Her delegation therefore welcomed the holding of the Fourth World Conference on Women (resolution 36/8 of the Commission on the Status of Women) and the Commission's decision that the agenda of the Conference should include a specific Platform for Action. She expressed the hope that a first draft of the Platform would be available when the Commission next met. She also looked forward to the appointment, before the end of 1992, of a Secretary-General of the Conference, who should be a woman of international stature. Preparatory activities for the Conference were crucial. She welcomed the Commission's recommendation that non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council should be entitled to participate without restriction in the Conference and preparatory activities.

22. Her delegation fully supported the Commission on the Status of Women's resolution 36/5, endorsed by the Economic and Social Council, concerning the importance of the effective mobilization of women for development.

23. Suriname was now completing the constitutional procedures enabling it to become a party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Her delegation supported the report of the

(Ms. De Miranda, Suriname)

eleventh session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, particularly general recommendation 19 concerning violence against women. It welcomed the draft Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women prepared by the inter-sessional working group of the Commission on the Status of Women, and hoped that the adoption of that Declaration by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session would stimulate Member States' efforts to eliminate violence against women.

24. While she was appreciative of the detailed information contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat (A/47/508), she hoped that the goals of a 35 per cent overall participation rate and a 25 per cent participation rate in posts at D-1 level would be reached by 1995. The creation of national rosters for women candidates could accelerate the recruitment of women within the Secretariat.

25. Her delegation was satisfied with the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) as reported by the Secretary-General (A/47/340). Some of UNIFEM's operational projects and programmes had benefited her country.

26. The Government of Suriname had established a national programme for the advancement of women aimed at raising women's level of organization, stimulating their participation in policy-making and democratic structures and increasing their access to education, health, social welfare services and the legal professions. A national centre for women's affairs which cooperated with non-governmental women's organizations had been established. The Government recognized the need to widen the scope of the centre, but was experiencing difficulty in doing so on account of the country's economic problems.

27. Ms. AOKI (Japan) said that her delegation welcomed the decision of the Commission on the Status of Women to proceed with preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women. The Conference would afford excellent opportunities for raising awareness about women's rights and their contribution to economic and social progress, and for revitalizing international efforts to promote implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies and preparing the ground for further advances. The success of the Conference depended on the preparatory work. In her region, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) had endorsed the convening of a regional preparatory meeting in May 1994. The Government of Japan had decided to fund the ESCAP project, which was designed to review and analyse the economic and social situation of women in the region and hoped that the ESCAP Secretariat would cooperate with the members of the Commission in preparing for the 1994 meeting. At the international level, a variety of activities were being undertaken on issues relating to women; the sharing of the results of those activities, which must be coordinated, would be a useful input to the forthcoming Conference. Her delegation looked forward to the appointment of the Secretary-General of the Conference, particularly in

(Ms. Aoki, Japan)

connection with the collection and dissemination of information. Preparatory work for the Conference must also be considered in the context of other major United Nations events in 1995 in order to ensure the full involvement of women. Participation by non-governmental organizations and individuals in the Conference was important in ensuring interaction and cooperation. Her delegation hoped that the proposal made by the representative of Kenya on rationalizing the work of the Conference would be given careful consideration by the Commission on the Status of Women.

28. Her delegation was pleased to note (A/47/368) that eight States had become parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women since the Secretary-General's previous report on the subject. It urged those States that had not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Convention, and hoped that States which had expressed reservations on essential articles of the Convention would reconsider those reservations. With the increase in the number of States parties, the task of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in monitoring implementation of the Convention was becoming heavier. Japan supported Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/17 recommending the extension of the twelfth and subsequent sessions of the Committee to a third week until the backlog of State reports was liquidated, on the understanding that that was a temporary measure. Meanwhile, efforts must be made to improve the reporting system itself.

29. Further efforts were also needed to integrate women in development. In developing countries, the contribution of women was often overlooked and was not truly reflected in national development policies and programmes, while in developed countries women had little access to or control over production resources and were disadvantaged by insufficient educational and training opportunities. In 1992, the Government of Japan had adopted the Official Development Assistance Charter to inform the public about Japan's aid programme. The programme's effectiveness would depend on active participation by women in development and full enjoyment of the benefits they derived therefrom.

30. Her Government continued to support the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). The Japanese National Committee in support of UNIFEM would be established within a month. The preparatory committee, with representatives of 51 Japanese women's organizations, was currently preparing for the official inaugural meeting. The establishment of the National Committee was expected to mobilize wider support for the Fund and its activities.

31. Her delegation commended the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) for its studies and statistical work on the situation of women; they would provide valuable inputs to the country reviews to be prepared for the World Conference. Her Government was exploring other modalities of cooperation with INSTRAW, for

(Ms. Aoki, Japan)

example, through recent contacts with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

32. As reported in document A/47/508, commendable efforts had been made to improve the situation of women in the Secretariat. Her delegation noted with approval that the Secretariat now explicitly stated that it would give preference to women candidates in recruitment. It remained, however, for Member States to put forward suitable women candidates. A point to be borne in mind when considering the status of women in the Secretariat was the observation that some women who rose to high positions assumed men's way of thinking and therefore did not necessarily promote the views of women. In addition to equal opportunity measures, efforts should be made to sensitize all staff members to gender differences. It was noteworthy that the Secretariat had begun to develop training programmes and other methods of enhancing such understanding. Further efforts were required along those lines.

33. Given the persistent gap between the de jure and de facto status of women throughout the world, preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women must provide an opportunity for reviewing the situation of women with renewed commitment to improve their status.

34. Mr. KHOUINI (Tunisia) was pleased to reaffirm that Tunisia was in the vanguard of efforts to ensure the advancement of women, as demonstrated by the Tunisian Code of Personal Status, the philosophy of which was later reflected in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, ratified by his country in 1980. The Tunisian President had given further guarantees of the rights thus acquired by women by pledging that the improved position of women in society would be maintained, despite pressure from reactionary movements. New policy measures, announced in August 1992, would further improve the position of women in the areas of personal status, nationality, work and politics.

35. Measures adopted by the Government in the strategic areas of development had quickly borne fruit: Tunisian women enjoyed full equality with men in terms of rights and duties; they constituted part of the decision-making process and political life; and they were now more integrated in the economic process. Representing almost half of the total population, they had made a large contribution to the growth of vital sectors, such as manufacturing, agriculture and services. The figures for illiteracy among women had been almost halved since 1966, while the percentage of females in full-time education had increased by over 30 per cent during the same period.

36. Nevertheless, many problems were still to be overcome, particularly in the rural areas, where, in common with other developing countries, poverty alleviation was a major objective. Improving the condition of rural women should constitute a basic principle of Tunisia's economic policies. As food providers, women should also be given access to modern agricultural technology and more credit. In that respect, bilateral and multilateral aid could play

(Mr. Khouini, Tunisia)

an effective role. Accordingly, his delegation wished to congratulate UNIFEM for its assistance to developing countries, particularly in Africa, aimed at integrating women in the development process by helping them to gain access to food technology and financing for small enterprises.

37. Unfortunately, the three main objectives articulated by the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies continued to be undermined by obstacles such as poverty, the debt burden and budget restrictions, particularly in the social sector, which affected the position of women. Moreover, in some parts of the world, improvement of that position was further threatened by the emergence of fundamentalist religious movements one of whose goals was to obstruct women's progress. His delegation remained convinced that such improvement was dependent on an improved economic situation and a commitment by the international community to defend human rights in general, and women's rights in particular, against trends detrimental to those rights. It was only under those conditions that the key objective of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies would be attained. His delegation therefore looked forward with great interest to the Fourth World Conference on Women. It was confident that the Conference would reinforce cooperation between the international community and the United Nations system with regard to the advancement of women.

38. Mr. SIDDIQ (Sudan) said that, within a few months, his Government would be acceding to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which was a major milestone in the advancement of women. As for the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies, his delegation was convinced that its objectives could be achieved through intensified efforts at international, regional and local levels. Meanwhile, the fact that illegal discrimination against women continued should not deflect efforts to eliminate it for that goal could not be achieved overnight. In Sudan, as in the rest of the world, differences still persisted between men and women, despite protective legislation. His delegation believed, however, that those differences would be eliminated with the improved education and greater employment of women.

39. In the developing countries, the role of women in the development process was restricted by unfavourable economic circumstances caused by the external debt burden and the deteriorating standards of international trade. In Sudan, women had successfully secured rights which were now safeguarded under the Constitution. Almost three quarters lived in rural areas, where their illiteracy rate was extremely high, while among those in the urban areas, the illiteracy rate was much lower. In the field of higher education, however, girls accounted for 60 per cent of the enrolment figures. Although women represented over one quarter of the workforce in government offices, very few women occupied decision-making positions, a situation which might well change within the next decade.

(Mr. Siddig, Sudan)

40. The inequalities that persisted between men and women was compounded by the economic difficulties faced by Sudanese women. Clitorectomy, which was very common, particularly in rural areas, was another major problem even though it was forbidden under Islam and a crime punishable by law. In a determined bid to eradicate the practice, Government and non-governmental organizations had started an awareness campaign, which was being conducted through government employees, the media and women's organizations.

41. With the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies in mind, his Government had formed a national consultative committee on women's affairs to advise on women's interests. Meanwhile, his delegation wished to thank the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) for the work it had carried out, despite limited resources; women in Sudan had benefited a great deal from its research and training projects. It also commended the technical assistance given by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) to women in the developing countries, particularly in agriculture and food production, and hoped that assistance would continue.

42. The Sudanese Government was coping with one million refugees, in addition to a further three million persons who were either displaced by the war in southern Sudan or victims of the country's drought. He stressed that it was working in full cooperation with United Nations agencies and other voluntary organizations to alleviate their suffering. Statistics on women's nutrition and health, however, reflected a dismal situation, and trying economic circumstances and insufficient international aid merely excerbated the suffering.

43. With reference to the Secretary-General's report on improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat (A/47/508), his delegation commended the efforts to increase the proportion of women and hoped that the desired results would be achieved by 1995. Finally, he expressed his appreciation to the Government of China for offering to host the Fourth World Conference on Women.

44. Mr. PARCHIKOV (Russian Federation) said that there was an obvious need to strengthen international cooperation at the governmental and non-governmental level in implementing the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies. The preparatory activities and convening of the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995 should give a powerful impetus to the efforts by States and organizations active in the social field to eliminate all discrimination against women.

45. Preparations for the World Conference had already begun in the Russian Federation; and an all-Russian conference on women, to be held at the end of the year, would consider, inter alia, the question of establishing a national preparatory committee for that purpose. A democratic society, toward which his country was striving, could be built only on the basis of equal opportunities for all men and women. The entire range of issues related to

(Mr. Parchikov, Russian Federation)

the status of women must be considered as an integral part of the question of human rights and the affirmation of the principles of freedom and equality.

46. The transition to a market economy in the Russian Federation had given rise to new problems affecting women, particularly unemployment and the feminization of poverty. Single mothers, single women of retirement age and women on childcare leave were among those living below the poverty level. The Ministry of Social Welfare dealt with their problems as a matter of priority; and his Government was currently developing a national mechanism for elaborating and implementing a State policy on women.

47. Consideration was also being given to a proposal to establish a special ministry for matters relating to women, families and children and to set up special subdivisions to deal with various aspects of the status of women in federal and territorial bodies. Furthermore, there had been a significant increase in the number of women's non-governmental organizations, associations and movements. Their activities had to be better coordinated and their financial basis had to be strengthened. The informal discussion held with the participation of experts on the status of women had provided useful statistical and analytical data which could be utilized in United Nations programmes and national efforts for the advancement of women. It was hoped that similar meetings would be held in future.

48. Ms. KHAPARDE (India) said that notwithstanding the difficulties facing women, including gender-based violence, there was a growing awareness among women of their rights and the need for empowerment as responsible decision-makers in society. The report of the Secretary-General on the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies (A/47/377) provided useful insights as to why the Strategies had not been fully implemented. In spite of the enactment of national legislation guaranteeing equal status for women, negative social attitudes had not changed and discrimination against women continued in most societies. Accordingly, women must be made more aware of their rights through education and the activities of women's organizations and poverty, which impeded the advancement in many developing countries, must be eradicated in order to achieve real freedom, democracy and equality. In India women's movements dealing with the environment, literacy, economic advancement and human rights had existed for many decades and were rooted in Gandhi's philosophy.

49. The 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women could be a landmark in world-wide action for the advancement of women. The proposed medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001 and its integration into the Nairobi Strategies would also ensure a global commitment and the continuation of the Strategies.

50. There was a growing awareness of women's rights in both urban and rural areas of India. A strongly supportive press and an enlightened judiciary stressed the need to empower women and address their problems. The number of

(Ms. Khaparde, India)

women's organizations in India had increased substantially and there was growing concern about crimes committed against women and the need to include women's issues in policy-making and development activities.

51. While the Indian Constitution ensured equality of rights and privileges for women, the absence of a uniform civil code was a great detriment to the exercise of women's rights in the country. Her Government appreciated in particular the work carried out in India by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), which supported efforts to help women to participate in a more dynamic development process. The Fund's assistance to women in income-generating activities was of particular significance. In the Asia and Pacific region, UNIFEM broadened opportunities for women's participation, strengthened the capacity of key institutions in that regard and promoted greater awareness of the rights of rural women.

52. The Indian Government had established the National Commission for Women to ensure representation of women in all fields and redress of their grievances. The Commission monitored all matters relating to legal safeguards for women and reviewed existing legislation providing those guarantees. The aim of the National Perspective Plan for Women was to draw up a long-term policy for Indian women with particular emphasis on development. India's National Committee on Women was made up of representatives of women's organizations, the media, the legal profession and educational institutions. Her country also had plans to promote regional cooperation with neighbouring countries in the field of women's development.

53. Mr. Dekany (Hungary) took the Chair.

54. Mr. ANDRIAKA (Ukraine) said that outmoded stereotypes about the role of women in society unfortunately prevented their full participation in the development process. Accordingly, the international community must focus on implementing the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights guaranteeing equality of men and women.

55. The United Nations and other international organizations had done much to eliminate discrimination and enhance the status of women. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was a basis for international cooperation in that regard. It was gratifying to note that the number of States parties to the Convention had increased and that countries that were not parties had amended their legislation to eliminate de jure discrimination against women. Nevertheless, de facto discrimination remained and the international community must endeavour to eradicate it.

56. The system of monitoring implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies was improving, but the pace of implementation had slowed. Yet, various international organizations were giving more attention to the problems of women and had increased the representation of women in professional and high-level posts. The work carried out by the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) was commendable.

(Mr. Andriaka, Ukraine)

57. The 1995 Fourth World Conference for Women should give fresh impetus to activities aimed at enhancing the status of women and creating equal opportunities and equitable partnership between men and women. His delegation supported the preparations for the Conference set forth in the report of the Secretary-General (A/47/377) and the related activities to be undertaken by the Commission on the Status of Women. Since each country had its own specific characteristics and problems, the basic preparations for the Conference should take place at the national level.

58. The situation of women in Ukraine had deteriorated during the transition to a market economy. The economic crisis, inflation, lower living standards, unemployment and other problems had a negative impact on women's health, the welfare of families and child rearing. The demographic situation had also worsened over the past decade. The birth rate was dropping and both the general mortality rate and the child mortality rate were on the rise. His Government had developed a long-term programme based on provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child to cope with those problems. The aim was to provide legal protection for women and monitoring mechanisms. The programme would be financed by State funds as well as local budgets and funds from enterprises and organizations. It was hoped that the process of democratic reforms being carried out in the Ukraine would promote the speedy implementation of the programme.

59. Ms. FRITSCHE (Liechtenstein) said that democracy, freedom and human rights had made significant gains throughout the world over the past few years. Yet the women of the world had not fully benefited from that change. Real democracy was not possible without their just and equal participation in democratic institutions at all levels. An action programme for the advancement of women in the United Nations Secretariat was urgently needed. The Secretary-General's report (A/47/508) made it clear that the United Nations was not even approaching its goal of providing equal opportunities for women. Coordinated recruitment and promotion must be initiated and monitored, and targets should be set for each department with managers held accountable for meeting them.

60. In commenting on the situation of women in developed countries, she said that education for women was no longer a problem. Women who wished to pursue a career, however, were often subject to discrimination if they also planned to have children. Studies showed that women with equal educational background lagged behind their male colleagues in terms of leadership positions, a waste of human resources. Company policies, most often established by men, must be changed and more flexible forms of employment developed for the future.

61. Her delegation shared the concern expressed by the representative of New Zealand regarding sexual harassment in the workplace and agreed that the reputation of the United Nations could be damaged if sexual harassment

(Ms. Fritsche, Liechtenstein)

allegations were not treated seriously, expeditiously and fairly. Effective policies for prevention and a complaint procedure must be adopted.

62. Liechtenstein had recently concluded a revision of its family law and its Parliament had passed a Constitutional Act in August 1992 according equal rights to men and women.

63. In 1995, the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations would be celebrated, and the Fourth World Conference on Women would be held. In preparation for that Conference, progress achieved should be recognized, but so should shortcomings. Women's critical economic and social needs must be addressed as well as the vital role they played in preserving the environment. She commended the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) for its successful efforts to address those needs in a number of countries. In the past year, UNIFEM had helped women to gain access to legal rights, education, health care, land, technology and credit, and, on the local level, to raise their living standards through increased income.

64. Mr. JAEGER (Austria) said that the issues of special importance considered at the thirty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women included the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat, the role of women within the family, the relationship between the advancement of women and human rights, the problems of women and development and women and the environment, the question of communications on the status of women, and the venue and date of the Fourth World Conference on Women. There remained, however, an urgent need for further progress with regard to the granting of equal rights to men and women. Austria attached particular importance to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, was concerned that about one third of member States of the United Nations were not yet parties to the Convention and hoped that those with reservations would reconsider and withdraw them.

65. His Government was very satisfied with the outcome of the inter-sessional meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women, and with the elaboration by the Commission's inter-sessional working group of a draft Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women. For the first time in history there was international consensus on a definition of "violence against women". Once the draft Declaration was adopted by the General Assembly, it would certainly constitute one of the most important international documents relating to the status of women. It might, however, be necessary to devise some form of monitoring system for violence against women. In Austria, several major symposiums had been held on the question of violence against women, and a one-year campaign was to be launched on 13 November 1992 by the Federal Minister for Women's Affairs. One of the planned events was an international symposium on sexual harassment and violence against women with disabilities.

(Mr. Jaeger, Austria)

66. In addition to its national initiatives, Austria continued to support fully the work of the United Nations for the advancement of women, and the activities of the Division for the Advancement of Women, which should be more adequately equipped with the personnel and financial resources needed to fulfil the tasks entrusted to it.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION

Official Records

THIRD COMMITTEE
25th meeting
held on
Monday, 2 November 1992
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 25th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. KRENKEL (Austria)

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27 November 1992
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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

1. After a discussion in which Mr. MORA (Cuba), Mr. RAVEN (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Mr. KUEHL (United States of America), Mr. Yuan (China), Mr. BABADOUDOU (Benin) and Mrs. ARIAS (Colombia) took part, the CHAIRMAN said that he would study the programme of work in order to set a date for a meeting at which delegations which wished to do so could state their views on item 105.

AGENDA ITEM 91: ELIMINATION OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued) (A/C.3/47/L.3/Rev.1, A/C.3/47/L.9/Rev.1, A/C.3/47/L.10 and A/C.3/47/L.12)

2. The CHAIRMAN said that draft resolutions A/C.3/47/L.3/Rev.1, A/C.3/47/L.9/Rev.1 and A/C.3/47/L.10 had no programme budget implications.

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.3/Rev.1

3. Mr. CURE (Mauritius) introduced the revised draft resolution entitled "Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination" (A/C.3/47/L.3/Rev.1) on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that were members of the Group of African States. The revised version included the changes made in preambular paragraphs 9 and 16 and in operative paragraphs 6 and 17.

4. Mr. KUEHL (United States of America) said that for some years the United States had not taken part in the consideration of the draft resolutions on the item but had changed its attitude following the withdrawal of the resolution equating zionism with racism. However, since the negotiations with representatives of the Group of African States had still not been concluded, it had been agreed with the Chairman of the Group, the representative of Mauritius, that the adoption of the draft resolution might be deferred for 24 hours.

5. Mr. SAHRAOUI (Algeria) said that in paragraph 2 of the French version the words "en adoptant" should be replaced by "en adaptant".

6. The CHAIRMAN said that the Commission would resume its consideration of the draft resolution at a later stage.

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.9/Rev.1

7. The CHAIRMAN said that at the time of the introduction of the draft resolution entitled "'Ethnic cleansing' and racial hatred" (A/C.3/47/L.9/Rev.1) it had been announced that Albania and Paraguay had become sponsors. It had later been announced that Panama, Sweden, Ecuador, Costa Rica and India had also become sponsors. The Commission had before it the amendments proposed by Turkey in document A/C.3/47/L.12.

8. Mr. RAVEN (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) said that other changes had been made in the draft resolution. In the seventh preambular paragraph the word "protecting" should be replaced by "respecting". In the eighth paragraph the word "Recalling" should be replaced by "Reaffirming", and the following language should be added at the end of the paragraph: "which stated that the abhorrent practice of 'ethnic cleansing' constituted a grave and serious violation of international humanitarian law". In paragraph 4 the word "personally" should be replaced by "individually".

9. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the delegation of Turkey would withdraw its proposed amendments contained in document A/C.3/47/L.12.

10. Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.9/Rev.1, as orally amended, was adopted without a vote.

11. Mr. RAMISHVILI (Russian Federation), speaking in explanation of vote, said that his delegation had wanted from the outset to join in the consensus on the draft resolution as a sponsor because it believed that the policy of "ethnic cleansing", no matter where or by whom it was applied, warranted unconditional condemnation. Unfortunately, since the text endorsed resolution 46/242 which, in his delegation's view, condemned a concrete situation which at first glance could also be inferred from the draft resolution just adopted, it had not been able to join the sponsors. However, it did not think that the reference linked the whole of the draft resolution to that concrete situation or reduced all forms of "ethnic cleansing" and racial hatred to one, i.e. its concrete manifestation in one of the countries. On the basis of that interpretation the Russian Federation had been able to vote for the draft resolution.

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.10

12. The CHAIRMAN said that a recorded vote had been requested on the draft resolution entitled "Status of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid" (A/C.3/47/L.10).

13. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.10.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kuwait, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar,

Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

14. Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.10 was adopted by 93 votes to 1, with 42 abstentions.

15. Mr. BRITO (Brazil) said that his delegation had voted for the draft resolution because it reaffirmed the efforts of the international community to eradicate the system of apartheid. However, Brazil was not a party to the Convention and had reservations about some parts of the draft resolution.

16. Mr. FENN (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Community, said that their votes were not connected with their views on apartheid, for they had not only condemned it but had also taken practical measures to hasten its abolition, to help combat the violence in South Africa, and to redress its socio-economic situation. Although no State member of the European Community was a party to the Convention, they all supported its aims but had reservations about the means envisaged in it and about the formulation of certain paragraphs of the draft resolution, on which they had abstained.

17. Miss TERANISHI (Japan) said that her delegation had abstained, as in the previous year, because it had reservations about the legal aspects of the Convention.

18. Mr. RATA (New Zealand), explaining his delegation's abstention, said that for legal reasons New Zealand was not a party to the Convention, but that did not affect its concern for the building of a democratic and non-racial South Africa. New Zealand had always taken every opportunity to encourage South African leaders to reach a just and peaceful settlement.

19. Mr. URTASUN (Spain) and Mr. SMAGULOV (Kazakhstan) said that, if they had been present, they would have abstained in the vote.

20. Mrs. ARUNGU-OLENDE (Kenya) and Mrs. LIMJUCO (Philippines) said that, if they had been present, they would have voted in favour of the draft resolution.

21. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should recommend that the General Assembly should take note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the adverse consequences for the enjoyment of human rights of political, military, economic and other forms of assistance given to the racist and colonialist regime of South Africa (A/47/480 and Add.1).

22. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 92: RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION (continued) (A/C.3/47/L.4 and A/C.3/47/L.7)

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.4

23. The CHAIRMAN said that draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.4, entitled "Importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and of the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights", did not have programme budget implications.

24. Mr. CURE (Mauritius) introduced amendments to the draft resolution. In the seventh preambular paragraph, the word "intervention" should be replaced by the word "action"; in paragraph 10, the word "regime" should be replaced by the word "Government"; and in paragraph 25, the phrase "organizations which are struggling against apartheid and" should be inserted after the word "through".

25. Mr. SAHRAOUI (Algeria) said that in the tenth preambular paragraph of the French text, the word "October" should be replaced by the word "September".

26. Mr. MELAMED (Israel), speaking in explanation of vote before the vote, said that the draft resolution to be voted on was full of anachronisms, especially the paragraphs regarding the Palestinians. The world had entered a new era and at the current time the States of the region were talking directly to each other and trying to negotiate peace in a civilized manner. The paragraphs in question did not take into account the tremendous developments that had taken place during the past year. Israel's proposal for interim self-governing arrangements for the Palestinians was being discussed at the peace talks in Washington. For those reasons, his delegation would vote against the draft resolution and called upon all delegations which supported the current peace-making process in the Middle East to join it and prevent the adoption of the draft resolution.

27. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.4.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Georgia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Argentina, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Costa Rica, Croatia, Estonia, Greece, Grenada, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), New Zealand, Panama, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Slovenia, Spain, Swaziland, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay.

28. Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.4, as orally amended, was adopted by 90 votes to 22, with 30 abstentions.

29. Mr. THOMPSON (Jamaica), speaking in explanation of vote after the vote, said that his country had abstained because it felt that the language used in the draft resolution with regard to the situation in the Middle East could not promote the peace process under way.

30. Ms. LISSIDINI (Uruguay) said that, in spite of its unconditional support for the right to self-determination, her country had abstained in the vote owing to the language used and because the negotiation process under way was not suitably reflected.

31. Miss TERANISHI (Japan) said that her country had abstained in the vote because the draft resolution did not take account of recent events and, therefore, lacked balance.

32. Mr. SHARP (Australia) said that his country had abstained in the vote because the language used in the draft resolution was, on the whole, outmoded, particularly with regard to paragraphs 5 and 6, which were not in accordance with his country's policy in the Middle East. With regard to the situation in Angola, Australia encouraged all parties to continue making progress towards a democratic settlement. Referring to South Africa, he called upon all parties to act with moderation so that the peace talks could speedily resume.

33. Ms. RAMIREZ (Panama) said that she supported the comments made by the representative of Australia on the paragraphs of the draft resolution referring to the Middle East and added that while the peace process was under way, the parties concerned should refrain from any action which might affect it.

34. Mr. BRITO (Brazil) said that his country had voted in favour of the draft resolution to demonstrate its support for efforts to eliminate apartheid and promote the exercise of the right to self-determination. Nevertheless, he considered that the wording of the draft resolution could have been more up-to-date and balanced without any detriment to the text.

35. Mr. FENN (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the member States of the European Community, expressed regret that the sponsors of the draft resolution had not taken a fresh approach and attempted to reach consensus. That would have involved recognition of the fact that problems associated with the right to self-determination existed world wide and that developments, many of them positive, had occurred in the two regions on which the draft resolution concentrated, namely, southern Africa and the Middle East. The member States of the European Community had indicated at an early stage that they would welcome a thoroughgoing revision. Unfortunately, the text adopted did not reflect the importance of the current negotiation process in South Africa and did not take sufficient account of the peace process under way in the Middle East.

36. Mr. RAMISHVILI (Russian Federation) said that his country had voted against the draft resolution because the text did not reflect the changes that had occurred in the world. Nevertheless, he welcomed the fact that the sponsors had demonstrated a certain spirit of conciliation, which encouraged the hope that in future a more balanced text could be drawn up.

37. Mr. KUEHL (United States of America) said that, during the general debate on the agenda item under consideration, his delegation had already foreseen that the draft resolution would be unbalanced, as indeed it was, because it did not take account of the developments in South Africa or the Middle East. For that reason, his delegation had voted against the draft resolution.

38. Miss ZINDOGA (Zimbabwe), speaking as a representative of one of the countries sponsoring the draft resolution, said that she wished to remind the speakers which had described as outmoded the language used with regard to South Africa that most of the population of that country had been deprived of

(Miss Zindoga, Zimbabwe)

their right to vote. It would therefore have been correct to use stronger language so that the text reflected the real situation more accurately.

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.7

39. The CHAIRMAN said that Angola, Liberia, Uganda and Zambia had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.7, entitled "Use of mercenaries as a means to violate human rights and to impede the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination".

40. Mr. FERNANDEZ (Cuba) made an oral amendment to the draft resolution. In paragrapn 4 the phrase "racist South African regime" should be replaced by the words "South African Government".

41. A recorded vote was taken on draft A/C.3/47/L.7.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Canada, Croatia, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine.

42. Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.7 was adopted by 96 votes to 10, with 36 abstentions.

43. Mr. FENN (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Community in explanation of vote, said that the sponsors of the draft resolution had once again introduced into the text political considerations inconsistent with the International Convention on the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries, which had prevented the Twelve from voting for the resolution. Furthermore, the States members of the European Community wished to reiterate their objections to the context in which the issue of mercenaries was being debated. In their view, relations between States was the proper context for that matter.

44. Mrs. TERANISHI (Japan) said that her delegation had abstained because it had reservations about considering the question of mercenaries in the context of human rights.

45. Mr. BRITO (Brazil) said that his delegation had voted for the draft resolution because it agreed by and large with its content. None the less, he wished to note that some of the statements in the text were excessively broad in scope and could have been more precise.

46. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 92. Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.3/Rev.1, introduced under agenda item 91, would be considered as soon as possible.

AGENDA ITEM 93: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (continued)

(a) QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION AND TO YOUTH, AGEING, DISABLED PERSONS AND THE FAMILY (A/C.3/47/L.11, L.13, L.15 and L.17)

47. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider draft resolutions A/C.3/47/L.11, L.13, L.15 and L.17, none of which had any programme budget implications.

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.11

48. The CHAIRMAN said that the following countries had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.11 entitled "Policies and programmes involving youth": Belarus, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Egypt, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Malawi, Malta, Morocco, the Russian Federation, Togo and the United Republic of Tanzania.

49. Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.11 was adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.13

50. The CHAIRMAN said that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.13 entitled "Implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing:

(The Chairman)

integration of older persons in development" had been joined by the following countries: the Bahamas, Chile, Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica, Mali, Panama, Paraguay, Senegal and Suriname. He announced that Angola, Honduras, the Sudan and Togo had also joined the list of sponsors.

51. Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.13 was adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.15

52. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.15 entitled "Towards full integration of persons with disabilities in society: a continuing world programme of action". He recalled that the sponsors had been joined by Australia, Belarus, Costa Rica, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Greece, Iceland, Japan, Mali, Mongolia, Norway, Panama, Peru, the Russian Federation, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey and Ukraine. He announced that the sponsors had also been joined by Angola, Azerbaijan, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Namibia, Pakistan, Poland and Zambia.

53. He recalled that the oral amendments to the draft resolution, as presented by the representative of the Philippines had been the following: in the last line of the sixth preambular paragraph, the words "during the Decade" should be deleted; in paragraph 3 (b), the words "and providing preventive care and rehabilitation and monitoring equality of opportunities" should be inserted after "socio-economic issues"; in paragraph 8 (e), the words "the review of" should be inserted after "Finalizing"; in paragraph 8 (h), the words "close collaboration with the United Nations Office at Vienna/Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and the relevant bodies of the United Nations" should be inserted after "to continue its"; in paragraph 11, the words "decides to continue, in response to General Assembly resolution 46/91 and decision 1992/276 of the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability and" should be inserted before "encourages"; in the next reference in that same paragraph, the title could be shortened simply to the "Fund".

54. Mr. HONG Yongan (China) said that there was an error in paragraph 4: it was the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific - not the Economic and Social Council - which had proclaimed the Asia and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons.

55. Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.15, as orally amended, was adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.17

56. The CHAIRMAN said that the following States had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.17, entitled "The role of cooperatives in the light of new economic and social trends": Belarus, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire,

(The Chairman)

Honduras, Kenya, Micronesia (Federated States of), the Philippines and the United Republic of Tanzania.

57. Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.17 was adopted without a vote.

AGENDA ITEM 93: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (continued)

(b) CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.14

58. The CHAIRMAN said that draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.14 entitled "International cooperation in combating organized crime" did not have any programme budget implications and that the following States had joined the list of sponsors: Albania, Lithuania, Slovenia and Trinidad and Tobago. He reminded the members that Colombia was no longer a sponsor of the draft resolution.

59. Mr. TSEPOV (Russian Federation) said that certain errors in the draft resolution should be corrected. In the tenth preambular paragraph, the words "of the United Nations", following "International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council", should be deleted. In paragraph 5, the word "monitoring" should be replaced by "reviewing". In the French version of the draft resolution, in the penultimate preambular paragraph, the word "illicit" had been omitted as the qualifying adjective for traffic in narcotic drugs.

60. Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.14, as orally amended, was adopted without a vote.

61. Mr. KUEHL (United States of America) said that while it endorsed the substance of the resolution just adopted, his delegation considered the resolution to be redundant since it reproduced the text of resolutions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in his delegation's view, that was not appropriate.

AGENDA ITEM 94: ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (continued) (A/47/38, A/47/82-S/23512, A/47/88-S/23563, A/47/340, 368, 377, 391, 508 and 564)

62. Ms. DA ROSA (Guinea-Bissau) said that, despite the important measures adopted by the United Nations over the years, including the proclamation of the International Women's Year and the United Nations Decade for Women, the situation of women had continued to deteriorate in some parts of the world, particularly in Africa.

63. Her delegation called on the international community and non-governmental organizations to cooperate more closely with developing countries in executing projects and programmes designed to improve the health, education and employment situation of women.

(Ms. Da Rosa, Guinea-Bissau)

64. The Constitution of Guinea-Bissau guaranteed equal rights for men and women. Women were an important factor in the economic and social development of the country and had participated in the armed struggle on an equal footing with men. Since the declaration of independence, women had occupied responsible positions in the Government and public administration. The Ministry of Social Affairs and the Advancement of Women implemented programmes to meet the aspirations and needs of women in health, nutrition and family planning, in cooperation with international organizations and agencies.

65. However, many still believed that the place of women was in the home with the children. It was therefore necessary to continue education in order to affirm the equal status of both sexes and to improve the situation of women in Guinea-Bissau. In addition to heavy daily chores, and in rural areas, all types of agricultural, craft and trade activities, their burdens included frequent and sometimes unwanted pregnancies, violence and female circumcision. Thus, much remained to be done.

66. Since the Fourth World Conference on Women would be held in Beijing in 1995, the Division for the Advancement of Women must receive the necessary resources in order to make appropriate preparations. In that connection, her delegation approved of the proposals of the Commission on the Status of Women regarding the agenda for the Conference.

67. The question of equal rights for women should also be included on the agenda of the World Conference on Human Rights planned for 1993. Guinea-Bissau would participate actively in the preparations for that Conference both on the national and interregional levels, and hoped that it would give renewed impetus to the cause of the advancement of women and would contribute to the effective integration of women in development.

68. Her delegation condemned all forms of violence against women and welcomed the progress made in formulating a draft declaration on that subject.

69. Guinea-Bissau had signed and ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and was pleased that the current number of States parties to that instrument had reached 119. It urged those States which had not yet done so to ratify that Convention, which was the most valuable of all legal instruments for the promotion of true equality of the sexes.

70. Finally, her delegation took note with satisfaction of the significant increase in the percentage of women in the Secretariat between July 1991 and June 1992. That trend should be maintained in order to reach the objective of 35 per cent by 1995.

71. Mr. KIM Jae Hon (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that, for over 40 years, the United Nations had made efforts to promote the advancement of women. Despite the important contributions of the United Nations

(Mr. Kim Jae Hon, Democratic People's Republic of Korea)

Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the Commission on the Status of Women, however, the objectives of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies, the United Nations Decade for Women and relevant General Assembly resolutions had not yet been achieved. Thus, the convening of the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995 was welcome, since it would offer the international community another opportunity to formulate clear guidelines for future efforts and activities to improve the situation of women at the global level.

72. In 1946, the People's Democratic Republic of Korea had passed the law on the equality of men and women and had since taken important measures to improve their political, economic and social position. Women accounted for 20.1 per cent of deputies to the Supreme People's Assembly and held high positions in the Government. Women played a significant role in the economy, science, technology, education and culture, and in the management of enterprises and institutions of all types. Furthermore, they enjoyed free medical care and education and had the right to 150 days of maternity leave.

73. His delegation would continue to cooperate closely with other Member States to bring about equality for women at the global level.

74. Ms. AL-MAJALI (Jordan) said that Jordan attached great importance to the enjoyment of equal rights and the participation of women at all levels without any form of discrimination. Her delegation welcomed the increase in the number of signatories to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and urged those countries which had not yet done so to sign it.

75. Measures to resolve the problem of violence against women, one of the obstacles to their equal participation in development, must be adopted. The World Conference on Human Rights and the World Conference on Women would provide an opportunity to address that problem and to put an end to the violation of the human rights of women.

76. Referring to Palestinian women, she noted that they were deprived of the exercise of their rights in violation of the fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, and mentioned the psychological trauma caused by their situation.

77. With regard to the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/47/377, she reiterated the importance of accelerating the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies to guarantee fundamental rights and freedoms to women and to achieve equality between the sexes. It was essential to establish a mechanism for formulating plans and policies designed to integrate women into social progress, policy formulation and development planning. It was also very important to create education and training programmes designed for women. Guidelines should be offered to the mass media to enable them to assist in raising women's awareness of their rights and of the social, political and economic role which they could play.

(Ms. Al-Majali, Jordan)

78. Jordan recognized that its society could not progress and develop if half of its population remained uninvolved. All citizens had equal rights and duties and citizenship was not limited to one sex alone. For that reason, it was crucially important that all should receive equal education. Likewise, women played a major role in the rearing of future generations.

79. In Jordan, a great deal of attention was being paid to rural and poor women. Women's organizations and non-governmental organizations fulfilled an important function in that area. In cooperation with the Government and international organizations, they created employment and production opportunities offering women the possibility of paid work at home and of establishing small businesses.

80. Her delegation had read with attention the report in document A/47/340, and commended the efforts of UNIFEM in developing countries in general and in Jordan in particular to promote the advancement of women.

81. In conclusion, she noted that recent events on the international scene and in the United Nations had resulted in major progress in cooperation and social and economic development, which would enable structures to be rebuilt. In that respect, the increase in the number of women in the United Nations and the improvement of the situation of women in the Secretariat was a favourable indicator of the revitalization of the United Nations and of prospects for a better world for all.

82. Mr. EL-DEEB (Egypt) said that women played an outstanding part in human development and that it was consequently very important that their fundamental rights should be respected and that they should participate on an equal footing. He endorsed the view expressed in the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization (A/47/1) that it was necessary to promote the full participation of women in the development process and address the factors that adversely affected their situation, especially poverty and discrimination. With regard to the Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing in 1995, it was very important to make adequate preparations for it by holding consultations with all delegations and organizing regional meetings to ensure effective participation by all. Interaction between the United Nations system and national mechanisms for the advancement of women was also needed, since such regional and international cooperation would no doubt have a positive impact on the results of the Conference.

83. He welcomed the Secretary-General's report on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/47/368) announcing that another eight States had signed the Convention, bringing the number of States parties up to 119. With regard to the report in document A/47/340, he hoped that more attention would be given to programmes for women in the developing countries as part of national development plans and that further international assistance would be forthcoming for that purpose. He urged the

(Mr. El-Deeb, Egypt)

international community to protect groups most in need, such as refugee, immigrant and disabled women, and drew attention to the particularly difficult living conditions of Palestinian women in the occupied territories.

84. With reference to the promotion of women, his delegation believed that a start must be made with the United Nations itself, and drew attention in that regard to the Secretary-General's report on the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat (A/47/508) in which it was reported that the proportion of women in senior posts had increased. It was also important to increase the number of women from developing countries, having due regard for geographical distribution.

85. In Egyptian society, there were no restrictions on the role of women, who could take part in all activities relating to public life. Women occupied managerial positions and there was no discrimination. Women's organizations worked with organizations in other countries and regions and were concerned with regional and international cooperation.

86. Miss SELJUKI (Afghanistan) said that, owing to the 14 years of war in her country, many obstacles had impeded the achievement of the objectives of development, equality and peace of the United Nations Decade for Women. As part of its national economic reconstruction and rehabilitation programme, the Government of Afghanistan had spared no efforts in alleviating the consequences of the war, which had seriously affected the situation of women in the country. However, that objective could be achieved only with international and United Nations assistance.

87. In Afghanistan, laws were being prepared that would contribute to the integration and participation of women in social and cultural activities, and to the protection of their civil rights. Particular attention would be given to mitigating the adverse effects of the war, such as the problems of child care, especially the care of orphans, the situation of low-income single mothers and that of disabled women. The incidence of disability had risen dramatically as a result of the war and not just the most visible forms of disability but also mental suffering and traumatic stress syndrome. Women were now in the majority in Afghanistan, and yet it was one of the few countries in which the life expectancy of women was shorter than that of men.

88. She requested the United Nations and its relevant bodies to provide support for her country's programmes and projects aimed at improving the living conditions of women who were living in poverty, those who were heads of families and those who were disabled. They were further requested to help with training programmes, income-generating activities, literacy programmes and health education. Finally, she thanked the organizations that had assisted in improving the status of women in Afghanistan, namely ILO, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNFPA and the Office of the United Nations Coordinator for Humanitarian and Economic Assistance Programmes Relating to Afghanistan (UNOCA).

89. Mrs. BARGHOUTI (Observer for Palestine) said that, despite some progress, many problems still stood in the way of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2000. A prerequisite for overcoming them was to recognize the length between international peace and security, the struggle against colonialism and foreign occupation and the achievement of social development and equality.

90. The Palestinian women in the occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem, were subjected to the harshest forms of discrimination and oppression. The reality of their situation should be seen from a twofold perspective: their struggle for national liberation and for social equality. Since the 1920s, Palestinian women had been actively participating in the national liberation movement and in the quest for social liberation. As part of that effort, they had succeeded in establishing associations comprising women from all sectors of society, especially in the villages and refugee camps. The various programmes offered by the women's associations, had enabled women to become more aware of their situation and more active in the national political movement. As a result, despite the harsh reality of their lives under foreign occupation, Palestinian women had raised a whole generation of young people who had attained the highest level of education in the region. The first half of the 1980s had also witnessed an increased level of education and development among women: women completing secondary education had accounted for 48 per cent of all pupils, while those enrolled at universities had represented 40 per cent.

91. However, Palestinian women continued to be faced with various problems resulting from Israeli occupation practices, such as land confiscation and control of water resources, which contributed to the paralysis of the national economy, since many factories and businesses were forced to close. That had led to a rise in unemployment among women, which in turn had increased women's resistance to the Israeli military authorities.

92. Women had played a significant part in the Palestinian resistance movement. They also took part in political decision-making, as was demonstrated by their role in the current peace process. In addition, at the grass-roots level, women had organized cooperatives and other economic associations which had opened up further opportunities for training women in such areas as social work, nursing and teaching. Such activity had increased since the beginning of the intifadah, with women now accounting for 60 per cent of the work force. Women's organizations also now offered classes in private homes in view of the closure of schools, one of the oppressive practices resorted to by the Israeli authorities. During the intifadah, between 40 per cent and 60 per cent of school days had been lost in each academic year. That was not, unfortunately, the only harm suffered by children and young people in the occupied Palestinian territories. Many studies indicated that there was an abnormally high number of disturbed children as a result of the terror in which they lived.

93. The severe living conditions of the Palestinian people made it necessary for the international community to bring pressure to bear on Israel to cease

(Mrs. Barghouti, Observer, Palestine)

its illegal and cruel practices. The United Nations had an inherent responsibility towards the Palestinian question in general and towards Palestinian women in particular. Furthermore, regardless of any new developments, that responsibility should continue to be assumed until the Palestinian people was able to exercise its inalienable rights and a comprehensive solution to the conflict was reached.

94. Finally, she welcomed the decision to convene the Fourth World Conference on Women, which was to be held in 1995.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION

Official Records

THIRD COMMITTEE
26th meeting
held on
Monday, 2 November 1992
at 6 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 26th MEETING

Chairman:	Mr. KRENKEL	(Austria)
later:	Mr. DEKANY (Vice-Chairman)	(Hungary)

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The meeting was called to order at 6.05 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 94: ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (continued) (A/47/38; A/47/82-S/23512, A/47/88-S/23563; A/47/340, A/47/368, A/47/377, A/47/391, A/47/508, A/47/564)

1. Mrs. KHANUM (Bangladesh) said that in the developed world, despite some significant improvements in the condition of women, gender-based discrimination was not uncommon. In the developing countries, deep-rooted social prejudices, poor socio-economic infrastructure, poverty and illiteracy had kept women back. The basic issues of women's rights to education, adequate health care and nutrition, employment and recreation remained to be addressed in depth. Violence against women continued unabated, both at home and in the workplace. The threats of domestic violence, dowry deaths, sexual assaults and trafficking of women could only be resolved by rigid preventative and punitive measures. Therefore, her delegation welcomed the draft Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women.

2. It was hoped that the Commission on the Status of Women, at its thirty-seventh session, would address the problem of the feminization of poverty. The Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women had provided a blueprint for national and international policies designed to address that issue. The 1995 World Conference on Women would provide an opportunity to take specific decisions to strengthen the effectiveness of the Nairobi Strategies.

3. Any effort to attain prosperity should include the full integration of women in the mainstream of social, economic and political development activities. Legislation had been formulated to guard against gender-based discrimination in her country and to promote the active involvement of women at the policy-making level. Policies had been introduced to help educate the society to abandon existing prejudices and facilitate women's access to education. To encourage women's participation in the public sector, the age limit for entering public service had been lowered and job quotas had been fixed for women.

4. Since almost 80 per cent of women in Bangladesh lived in rural areas, women's effective participation in the rural economy was of crucial importance. National development plans focused on elevating rural women through better access to health, education, vocational training and credit facilities. Women were encouraged, for example, to develop their own cooperatives in handicrafts and cottage industries.

5. Between 1961 and 1991, the number of women seeking employment outside the home had dramatically risen: from 9 per cent to 90 per cent, most often as a result of sheer necessity. It was encouraging to note that in urban areas, the number of women professionals was gradually gaining strength.

(Mrs. Khanum, Bangladesh)

6. Problems related to the development of women were linked to deep-rooted traditional attitudes and often to a misinterpretation of religion, and while the Government had adopted effective legislation on violence against women, the strength of the law lay in its timely implementation. She commended the fact that the Commission on the Status of Women would take up legal literacy at its next session.

7. National efforts needed to be supplemented by international cooperation and assistance and it was logical that all United Nations agencies should devote a certain part of their development programmes to women. Her delegation commended the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the International Training and Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) for their very positive contribution towards the advancement of women, particularly in the developing countries.

8. Mr. Dekany (Hungary), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

9. Ms. COOMBS (New Zealand) said that women were disproportionately represented among the poor; they had had suffered grievously in situations of conflict and famine; and, with their children, they constituted the majority of refugees in the world.

10. At the national level renewed efforts had to be exerted to ensure full de jure equality for women and to remove the obstacles to de facto equality. Improving women's knowledge of their legal rights was regarded as priority in New Zealand's national programmes for women and the questions of family violence and sexual harassment relevant to the priority theme of peace were being addressed by awareness campaigns and the establishment of grievances procedures. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) had continued its important work in that area, adopting a helpful general recommendation which encouraged States parties to take effective measures to eliminate violence against women.

11. Attention should continue to be focused on women living in extreme poverty and on the related question of how to integrate women's concerns into national development planning. Failure to consider women's roles and their contribution to the economy increased project risks and reduced the chances of sustainable development. New Zealand was implementing a policy that was specifically targeted to vulnerable women and would increase the efficiency and effectiveness of New Zealand's development aid delivery.

12. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) had provided an historic opportunity to assess progress and to identify pathways to sustainable development. The Rio Declaration had stressed the need for the full participation of women in environmental management and development in order to achieve sustainable development. New Zealand welcomed UNCED's recognition of the role of women and supported effective efforts to ensure that women contributed fully to the successful implementation of Agenda 21.

(Ms. Coombs, New Zealand)

Throughout the UNCED process, the United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM) had worked tirelessly to help ensure that women's concerns were fully incorporated in Agenda 21. In order to ensure their participation in the follow-up process, women should occupy half the seats on the new Commission on Sustainable Development.

13. New Zealand looked forward to further consideration of the themes of equality, development and peace at the next session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The Commission needed to build on the good start it had made in planning for the fourth World Conference on Women and to allocate sufficient resources for those activities. Non-governmental organizations in New Zealand had already expressed considerable interest in the fourth World Conference on Women and her Government was pleased that provision would be made for their fullest possible involvement in the Conference and its associated meetings.

14. In recognition of the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of women's suffrage in New Zealand, the Government had established a special trust to fund projects to inform people about the contribution of women to New Zealand and to enhance women's knowledge, skills and opportunities. The anniversary was an opportunity for New Zealanders to assess the current status of women and to consider the steps that still needed to be taken to achieve true equality. The conclusions of that assessment process would guide the activities of participants from New Zealand at the fourth World Conference in 1995.

15. Ms. AL-HAMAD (Kuwait) said that her country took an avid interest in issues relating to the advancement of women and looked forward to the opportunity to participate in the forthcoming fourth World Conference on Women.

16. Two years after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, a number of Kuwaiti women were still being held prisoner in Iraq - she therefore called upon the international community to exert pressure on Iraqi authorities to release all prisoners. Within Kuwait, however, women were successfully recovering from the traumas caused by the Iraqi invasion and were increasingly involved in all aspects of society - social, cultural and economic.

17. Education was the catalyst for the significant progress which Kuwaiti women had achieved to date. The Kuwaiti Government had devoted substantial resources to education - dramatically reducing the number of illiterate women and according to a UNESCO report, the number of women enrolled in higher education exceeded the number of men.

18. Kuwaiti women were also gaining ground in the labour market. Among women college graduates, 82 per cent were employed, and Kuwaiti women had equal opportunity to work in most of the fields to which they aspired. The Kuwaiti constitution guaranteed equality in employment between the sexes and women were represented in many prestigious positions in academia and government.

(Ms. Al-Hamad, Kuwait)

19. Kuwaiti women's organizations had held numerous regional conferences addressing issues of concern to women including education and economic development and those conferences had demonstrated the leadership abilities of Kuwaiti women. The newly elected Kuwaiti parliament was considering granting women the right to vote in the 1996 elections.

20. Kuwaiti women took an interest in international matters of concern not only to women but to the world as a whole, such as the abuses suffered by Palestinians in the occupied territories, the famine in Somalia and the critical situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Kuwait would persevere in its efforts to promote and elevate the status of women and to grant women the rights to which they were legally entitled.

21. Mr. AL-TAEY (Oman) said that women, who represented one half of society, were a vital key to the success of development and were fully capable of assuming their share of responsibility. His Government therefore accorded great importance to improving women's education and health levels, as well as their economic and social position. Its policy was to develop the country's human resources, which included women, by promoting education, training and skills. Meanwhile, women in Oman contributed effectively to the development process and took part in regional and international activities related to women's affairs. A women's association had been established, with branches throughout most of the country, which, among other things, was helping with literacy and child development programmes successfully run by the Government.

22. One outcome of the radical changes that had occurred in Oman was that the Omani woman now had many other roles to play in addition to that of wife and mother; for instance, women now held leading positions in many Government and private institutions. In addition, under Omani legislation, women were now guaranteed the same rights and privileges as men; they had equal pay and employment opportunities and job vacancies were filled on the basis of ability. Women also had special legal concessions, such as maternity grants and paid maternity leave.

23. Ms. ANTONINO (Philippines) said that the experience of the Philippines in re-establishing democracy under the leadership of Corazon Aquino had demonstrated that women could act as catalysts for change. The new Philippine Constitution recognized the role of women in the nation-building process and ensured fundamental equality of the sexes before the law. In addition, a new family code had eliminated many of the discriminatory provisions of the country's former civil code.

24. An unprecedented number of Filipino women had been candidates in elections for government positions ranging from municipal councils to the national legislature, and many of them had been elected. Female members of the legislature had joined together to co-sponsor women's legislation, and a committee on women and family relations had been created in the Philippine Senate. In response to the proclamation of International Women's Year, a

(Ms. Antonino, Philippines)

national commission on the role of Filipino women had been created. The commission had been instructed to take action to put issues of concern to women on the agendas of national, regional and international bodies.

25. Despite signs of improvement in the status of women in the Philippines, sex-role stereotyping and the low level of awareness of women's problems and rights continued to exert a negative influence, particularly on poor women. As the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women had pointed out, an awareness of women's rights was one of the keys to equality, as it was vital to the exercise and preservation of those rights.

26. In order to address the relationship between gender issues and development, the Philippine Government had adopted a specific development plan for women in which national development planning agencies were establishing mechanisms to ensure the responsiveness of development programmes to women's needs. Working with the United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Government had issued a manual of operations designed to increase the sensitivity of government policies to the needs of women, and had created employment projects to benefit women living in poverty.

27. As women living in rural areas played a critical role as food producers, the continuing rise in the number of rural women living in poverty was a cause for concern. The Philippines therefore welcomed the Geneva Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women as a timely measure to focus the attention of the world community on the plight of women in rural areas.

28. The Philippines had fully supported the resolutions and decisions of the Commission on the Status of Women, in particular the resolution on violence against women which had called upon Governments to recognize that the elimination of violence against women was essential to achieving equality for women. The resolution had also urged Member States to adopt, strengthen and enforce legislation prohibiting such violence.

29. The Philippines had also drawn attention to the plight of young women from developing countries who had migrated to more affluent countries to find employment and were subject to violence and abuse. While it was the primary duty of the State to provide its citizens with appropriate training and education to enable them to improve their lot in life, the migration of workers to more affluent countries was a global problems because it was fuelled by the global economic crisis. Therefore, the problem of mistreatment of female migrant workers was also a global problem. Countries receiving immigrants had the moral obligation to ensure the human rights and freedoms of all persons within their boundaries. A concerted effort by both receiving countries and countries of origin to address the problem either bilaterally or multilaterally was called for. Her Government hoped that the question would be given further consideration in other international forums with a view to finding a just and lasting solution.

(Ms. Antonino, Philippines)

30. The Philippines looked forward to active participation in the 1995 World Conference on Women in Beijing, and was prepared to cooperate fully in preparations for the Conference.

31. Mr. GAUTAM (Nepal) said that the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women established a linkage between the advancement of women and development. Unfortunately, the optimism which had followed the adoption of the Nairobi Strategies had dissipated for lack of political commitment and as a result of the deteriorating socio-economic situation in the developing countries. The recommendations and conclusions of the first review and appraisal meeting on the Nairobi Strategies could provide new impetus for their implementation in the 1990s.

32. His Government believed that the recommendations contained in Agenda 21 on the role of women in development should be incorporated in national plans and programmes following the example of Nepal. Although global action for the advancement of women was important, primary responsibility for the improvement of conditions for women lay with national governments. Despite constraints imposed by poverty and illiteracy, the Government of Nepal was firmly committed to ameliorating the plight of Nepalese women. The five-year plan launched in 1992 incorporated a national policy designed to involve women in all aspects of development. In the countryside, government programmes to encourage income-generating activities had contributed to helping rural women earn cash income.

33. The Nepalese Government was committed to eliminating gender-based discrimination and ensuring women's access to education and employment. Legislation to create legal instruments to ensure women's equal access to property rights was currently under discussion in Nepal's national parliament. If enacted, it would have a profound effect on the socio-economic status of Nepalese women.

34. Nepal was also making every effort to ensure women's access to education. Education up to the sixth grade had been declared free and compulsory, and the Government intended to make secondary education free in the next few years. To underscore the importance of female literacy educational opportunities were being offered to girls from under-privileged backgrounds in the form of government scholarships.

35. The non-governmental organizations in Nepal had been playing an important role in addressing women's issues. They had been organizing literacy and skills development programmes in sewing, knitting, weaving and carpet-making. Moreover, a number of non-governmental organizations were active in launching legal education programmes with a view to generating awareness among women of their rights under the law.

36. He urged the United Nations to take the lead in providing equal opportunity to women to participate in decision-making processes at the United

(Mr. Gautam, Nepal)

Nations. The Secretary-General should make a greater effort to increase the number of women in the Secretariat and to attain employment targets set by the General Assembly.

37. Nepal attached importance to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) as an instrument for furthering the rights of women. Nepal had already ratified the Convention and he appealed to Member States that had not done so do likewise.

38. His Government commended the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) for its praiseworthy work on women's issues at the Rio Conference. Nepal also appreciated the support of its development activities provided by the United Nations system, particularly UNDP, the World Bank and UNICEF.

39. The forthcoming 1994 International Conference on Population and Development and the 1995 World Conference on Women would be important occasions on which to address women's issues. Also, the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights would provide an opportunity for a comprehensive discussion of women's rights issues. Nepal also commended the Commission on the Status of Women and CEDAW for their efforts to include women's human rights issues on the agenda of the forthcoming World Conference on Human Rights.

40. Mr. RANASINGHE (Sri Lanka) said that women's issues were no longer matters only of human rights or welfare; the social and economic potential of women had barely been tapped. Despite United Nations efforts, much remained to be done to ensure gender equality and bring women's issues into the mainstream of the development process.

41. For countries like Sri Lanka, where much had already been done to improve the lot of women, the obstacles were economic: the gap between awareness and action was due more to social and economic factors than to any value attached to gender. In Sri Lanka, for example, gender equality had gained ground even before the adoption of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies as a result of the pressure brought by grass-roots women's organizations, and questions of economic adjustment and competitiveness must not be allowed to erode the early advantages gained in developing countries. The empowerment of women required intervention by the public sector to prevent such erosion and make women effective partners in development. That was the essence of Sri Lanka's poverty alleviation programme and the message emanating from the First Ladies' Summit on the economic advancement of rural women and from UNCED. The willingness of the international financial institutions to recognize those human dimensions of development was welcome.

42. The Strategies and the themes of equality, development and peace remained the basis for action, and the mainstreaming of women's issues should encompass those themes. Such an approach at the fourth World Conference on Women would facilitate implementation of the Strategies and the formulation of an action-oriented agenda for the coming decade. It was essential for the

(Mr. Ranasinghe, Sri Lanka)

regional preparatory meetings to provide the necessary inputs to ensure the universal validity of the Conference.

43. As far as equality and development were concerned, while it would certainly be useful to address gender discrimination in international law, the priority task was to apply the legal framework already available; the promotion of legal literacy was therefore vital. Moreover, although the development process was considered gender-neutral, poverty could have a disproportionate effect on women. Poverty alleviation must therefore be pursued as another major priority. The national poverty alleviation programmes focused on rural women, and a separate ministry and a women's bureau had been established to provide policy inputs and act as a link between women at the grass roots and national policy planners. National plans were in fact the critical link between awareness and action, and UNIFEM was to be commended for its work in that area, particularly for its cost-effective approach, which enabled women to become self-reliant.

44. Sri Lanka looked forward to further cooperation with UNIFEM. It had also had a useful discussion with CEDAW in connection with its second periodic report. CEDAW had acknowledged Sri Lanka's sound legal framework and considerable achievements, but much remained to be done to translate legal rights into active participation by women. A women's charter had been drafted, and a committee was envisaged for monitoring its application. The objective was still the implementation of specific projects to bring women into the mainstream of society.

45. Efforts had also focused on education, nutrition and health care from early childhood. The countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation were currently implementing a Decade of the Girl Child, for girl children in the region were particularly vulnerable. The Sri Lanka Government had also taken specific initiatives for girl children.

46. The deplorable problem of violence against women could be overcome only by means of legal safeguards and understanding on the part of society. Women migrant workers also had to cope with violence, and the sending and receiving countries should cooperate to solve the problem. Sri Lanka was dealing with the issue on a bilateral basis and wanted such joint endeavours to develop further.

47. Mr. MAZLAN (Malaysia) said that credit must be given to the United Nations for taking a leading role in promoting the advancement of women. His Government had long acknowledged the importance of women's contributions to development and remained committed to enhancing their status. It had established a national policy for women and a special unit to coordinate and monitor its implementation. In Malaysia women enjoyed equal pay and education and training and job opportunities. As a result, their participation in the manufacturing and services sectors had risen considerably, while their contribution to agriculture had fallen.

(Mr. Mazlan, Malaysia)

48. A particularly interesting aspect of the report of the Secretary-General (A/47/337) was the concept of de jure and de facto equality. Many countries had achieved de jure recognition of women and their needs but de facto equality was often blocked by factors in the private domain. Governments were sometimes powerless to impose remedies, but the situation could be resolved by women themselves once Governments had made them aware of their rights. De facto equality often involved clashes with religious teaching and laws concerning inheritance, marriage and abortion which could not be changed overnight. The subject deserved study, with a view to smoothing the way for women to achieve equality with men.

49. The Secretary-General's report was somewhat disappointing in its discussion of the role of women in development and in the peace process. While it was true that poverty was not gender-neutral, the report failed to prove that women were not benefiting from development to the same extent as men. And although it asserted that women should be involved in national planning, it did not explain how that would have the effect of changing the situation. The failure to adduce evidence weakened the report's assertions. It also seemed to imply that the world would be a better place if women had been involved in the peace process at the decision-making level; that was a purely hypothetical statement. Women should certainly take part in the peace process but not on the ground that they could do better than men.

50. His delegation welcomed the report of UNIFEM and noted from the report of the Secretary-General (A/47/508) the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat. While it was difficult to find suitable candidates when equitable geographical distribution had to be taken in account, the Secretariat should seek to expedite the process so that the 1995 targets could be met.

51. While Malaysia remained committed to the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies and to the work of the Commission on the Status of Women, it shared the concern about the slow progress in implementation of the Strategies. It was to be hoped that the fourth World Conference on Women would adopt measures for their full implementation. The Conference should explore emerging issues, including the need to strengthen the family unit, but it should not shift the focus from the Strategies themselves. The preparations for the Conference must be broadly based and regional meetings should be held, with the participation of public and private sectors, including non-governmental organizations.

52. Ms. SEMAFUMU (Uganda) said that women's full participation in society would not be achieved unless the efforts to remove the obstacles to their advancement were intensified. Women suffered double discrimination in the developing countries, which bore the brunt of an inequitable international order. There was no guarantee that the laws safeguarding women's rights would be enforced, and the experience of women in developed countries showed that development did not necessarily guarantee their equal participation in

(Ms. Semafumu, Uganda)

political life. Despite the progress made since International Women's Year and the adoption of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies, there had been little change in the situation of most women. For example, the maternal mortality rate of 290 per 100,000 live births for developing countries showed that no breakthrough had been made in promoting the right to life. And inadequate access to education remained a major obstacle, for education was the most effective weapon in improving the status of women.

53. The difficulty encountered by the United Nations in increasing the number of women at the decision-making levels confirmed that leadership positions remained a male preserve. The restructuring exercise and ban on recruitment made it unlikely that the 1995 targets would be attained. In connection with the theme of peace, it should be remembered that disproportionate numbers of refugees and displaced persons were women and children. In those circumstances the reiteration of the Nairobi objectives of equality, development and peace for the fourth World Conference on Women demonstrated that those objectives had not been achieved. Her delegation endorsed the four items of the agenda for the Conference and thought that particular attention should be given in the preparatory process to institutional arrangements for the implementation of the Platform for Action. What was needed was not new mechanisms but a redirection of the existing ones.

54. At the Nairobi Conference the lack of institutions for the advancement of women had been identified as a major impediment. Now the United Nations had an array of bodies working for the advancement of women, and specialized institutions had been set up at the national level. The successes and failures of that new machinery reflected the gap between professed commitment and the actual situation of women. The World Conference on Women must examine that situation thoroughly, or risk degenerating into preaching to the converted.

55. The machinery had two general flaws. Firstly, there was insufficient integration of activities, and greater efforts must be made in that area. Secondly, there was the failure to integrate women into the mainstream of society. It was not sufficient to articulate women's problems, and the machinery could not be expected to operate outside the context which prompted its creation. The danger of marginalization of the new institutions had been underestimated: they debated women's issues at length, but in the rest of society it was business as usual. CEDAW had made commendable efforts to monitor the implementation of the Convention and to improve the status of women, but notwithstanding those efforts women's rights had not received greater attention in the mainstream, i.e., in the Commission on Human Rights.

56. Her delegation was aware of UNIFEM's inspiring achievements, but it had not made a dramatic difference in the lives of most women. Moreover, women's concerns had yet to be integrated in the development activities of the United Nations. A similar parallel could be drawn between INSTRAW and United Nations research activities. There must be a closer focus on the system-wide

(Ms. Semafumu, Uganda)

medium-term plan as a means of bringing the activities of those bodies into the mainstream.

57. At the national level women's institutions were often the first victims of cuts in public expenditure, and in some instances democratization eroded their influence, for they were seen as an undemocratic form of affirmative action. Therefore, early in the preparations for the World Conference a thorough analysis must be made of the operation of the machinery for the advancement of women at all levels. The Secretary-General should comply with the request made by the Commission on the Status of Women that the Secretary-General for the Conference should be appointed by the end of 1992. In the meantime, the opportunities offered by the preparatory processes of the several other forthcoming conferences must be fully exploited.

58. Ms. CAPELING-ALAKIJA (Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women) said that delegations wanted the advancement of women to become an integral part of the reform of the United Nations for reasons not only of equity but also of effective management. In that regard the establishment of the Commission on Sustainable Development presented an immediate opportunity for change.

59. The United Nations had played a critical role in bringing legitimacy to the issue of violence against women, and many delegations had emphasized that violence was a major obstacle to the realization of women's rights and their participation in development. UNIFEM would strengthen its efforts in that area, particularly with regard to the plight of women refugees.

60. The Division for the Advancement of Women would need strong financial support in preparing for the 1995 World Conference. The NGOs and women's groups, in South and North, must be involved in the preparatory process. The year of the Conference also marked the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations and the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies. It was to be hoped that in 1995 women in the Secretariat would be able to celebrate the attainment of the staffing targets set by the General Assembly. But it was even more important to go to the Conference with concrete solutions to development problems which would bring hope and results for the millions of women living in poverty.

The meeting rose at 8 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION

Official Records

THIRD COMMITTEE
27th meeting
held on
Tuesday, 3 November 1992
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 27th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. KRENKEL (Austria)

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AGENDA ITEM 95: NARCOTIC DRUGS

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.3/47/SR.27
10 November 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 95: NARCOTIC DRUGS (A/47/80-S/23502, A/47/82-S/23512, A/47/210, A/47/312-S/24238, A/47/344, A/47/375-S/24429, A/47/378, A/47/391, A/47/471 and A/47/564)

1. Mr. GIACOMELLI (Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP)) said that drug abuse control was part of the wider peacemaking role of the Organization and represented a major effort in preventing the social dislocation, political destabilization and financial ruin caused by drugs in countless developing countries. The guiding principles of the UNDCP strategy were based on a balanced, global approach taking into account structural economic, social and cultural factors that had contributed to the problem of drug abuse in the past two decades. That approach took into consideration certain changes that had occurred in the phenomenon of drug abuse itself and attempted to foresee possible dangers in the future. Above all, the strategy aimed at encouraging the development of a coherent, integrated and balanced programme.

2. In the short term, there was a need to act vigorously to reduce both demand and supply and develop concrete, aggressive measures against drug trafficking in all its organized criminal forms. While increasing cooperation with its established partners, UNDCP was developing enhanced relations with local communities, regional bodies, businesses and labour unions. An essential short-term priority was to bring about the speediest possible ratification by most Member States of the United Nations drug control conventions. The Programme was helping Governments update and harmonize national legislation, promoting international cooperation against money laundering and establishing a more effective control system over chemical precursors.

3. In the medium term, UNDCP was focusing on prevention, promoting effective cooperation in drug abuse control among all major international organizations and encouraging the elaboration of regional, subregional and national strategies reflecting the Programme's overall global strategy. In the long term, a cultural change was needed to bring about a world-wide rural and urban environment less conducive to the development of drug abuse.

4. Having defined a strategy and set priorities with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Programme was seeking to apply them in practice. Projects and activities inherited from the past were being assessed to ensure that objectives were being achieved. While the Programme was looking for a way to balance demand reduction and supply reduction, committing more resources to demand reduction did not necessarily mean lessening efforts in other areas of activity. The main supply-reduction activity was alternative rural development, which was essential to the development process.

(Mr. Giacomelli)

5. In view of the cost involved, the Programme considered it wise to introduce new criteria for involvement in such operations. He suggested as a pre-condition the explicit willingness of other multilateral institutions to cooperate with UNDCP in the same geographic areas in order to take over what was strictly related to rural development. Through funds from those organizations, the Programme would be able to reach the critical mass necessary to confront the all pervasive global drug problem. In that respect, UNDCP was actively pursuing its contacts with a number of international institutions, including the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), to encourage them to include a "drug dimension" in their own policies. In view of its limited resources, the Programme would concentrate on providing seed money for feasibility studies and confidence-building measures among the local population. At a later stage, UNDCP should focus on the drug control aspect of world development projects undertaken under multilateral auspices. Priority should also be given to launching programmes in countries ready to be integrated in a wider subregional strategy.

6. The Programme must enhance its demand-reduction activities in the most affected developing countries. Since drug abuse undercut social development goals, UNDCP was putting great emphasis on elaborating sustainable demand-reduction programmes that were both preventive and rehabilitative in nature. The Programme had continued its efforts to establish effective coordination and cooperation with other bodies in and outside the United Nations system. Its efforts to have the international financial institutions include a "drug dimension" in their programmes and policies should now lead to practical action.

7. In the area of inter-agency cooperation, UNDCP was drawing up cooperation agreements with several United Nations organizations such as UNDP, FAO, UNESCO, ILO, WHO and IFAD. As part of the Programme's normative functions, model penal and regulatory legislation had been prepared in several languages and for various legal systems, including those of countries in Africa and Eastern Europe. In helping Governments set up adequate drug control structures and define national and regional master plans, UNDCP had convened technical seminars in the Andean and Central American subregions to provide assistance at the request of the countries involved. The national master plan concept was central to the Programme's policy and would be fully meaningful when integrated in a wider regional and global context. Such master plan exercises should be encouraged everywhere, irrespective of level of development.

8. Much attention had been given to developing a coherent approach to subregional cooperation. Two subregional programmes to be carried out by the Governments of China, Myanmar and Thailand were designed to reduce opium cultivation and heroin trafficking along common border areas and lower drug abuse and associated HIV/AIDS infection among hill tribes. Those projects demonstrated the political will of the Governments of the region to join the United Nations in collaborative efforts to deal with the drug menace in South-East Asia.

(Mr. Giacomelli)

9. UNDCP had recently organized in Pakistan a technical consultation meeting on drug issues in South-West Asia. Enhanced subregional cooperation in that area, as elsewhere, was the key to solving the drug problem in the region. In the scientific field, the Programme's laboratory was putting in place a world-wide network of collaborating training centres in order to make maximum use of existing training resources. In its global approach, the Programme was sharply focusing on the growing problems in Africa, Eastern Europe and the States of the former Soviet Union as well as the major threat posed by drug abuse in the cities of the developing world. The Programme was operating without the full administrative integration of the structures of the pre-existing drug control units. It was hoped, therefore, that the General Assembly would soon enable UNDCP to perform its tasks with the efficiency needed to respond to the multiple challenges facing it.

The meeting rose at 10.55 a.m.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION

Official Records

THIRD COMMITTEE
28th meeting
held on
Wednesday, 4 November 1992
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 28th MEETING

Chairman:	Mr. DEKANY (Vice-Chairman)	(Hungary)
later:	Mr. KRENKEL (Chairman)	(Austria)
later:	Mr. DEKANY (Vice-Chairman)	(Hungary)
later:	Mr. KRENKEL (Chairman)	(Austria)

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AGENDA ITEM 95: NARCOTIC DRUGS

AGENDA ITEM 94: ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (continued)

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27 November 1992
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

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In the absence of Mr. Krenkel (Austria), Mr. Dékány (Hungary), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 95: NARCOTIC DRUGS (A/47/80-S/23502, A/47/82-S/23512, A/47/210, A/47/312-S/24238, A/47/344, A/47/375-S/24429, A/47/378, A/47/391, A/47/471 and A/47/564)

1. Mr. RICHARDSON (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, said that the illicit drug trade, which generated networks of organized crime and constituted a threat to the social, economic and political fabric of society, must be combated through intensified action by the international community. No action programme in that sphere could be truly effective unless it had a world-wide scope, since the drug trade was an evil that affected producing, transit and consuming countries alike.

2. The European Community and its member States held the view that the United Nations provided a necessary focal point for cooperation in the fight against all aspects of illicit drugs trafficking. For that reason, it had participated in a number of initiatives, including the adoption of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, and urged all States to ratify that international instrument and to apply provisionally the measures contained therein pending its entry into force for each of them.

3. The Twelve had also participated in the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly, which had adopted the Global Programme of Action (resolution S-17/2), and in the World Ministerial Summit, at which the London Declaration of May 1990 had been approved. At regional level, it had participated in the Pan-European Ministerial Conference on drug abuse held in 1991.

4. The idea of concentrating all United Nations activities in the fight against illicit drugs trafficking into a single body, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNIDCP), had proved fruitful, though it needed more voluntary contributions and also more appropriations from the regular budget. It was clear, however, that in view of the financial situation of the United Nations and of national Governments, a substantial increase in the resources available to the Programme would not be possible, and that the United Nations system and the international financial institutions must cooperate closely with UNIDCP so as to strengthen its activities.

5. Measures adopted at the regional and subregional levels, emanating from forums such as the meetings of the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), would always be an essential complement to international

(Mr. Richardson, United Kingdom)

measures. The Twelve thus supported the UNIDCP initiative to convene regional technical consultation meetings in Islamabad and Beirut. Within the European Community, member States were cooperating through a group of senior intergovernmental drugs coordinators (CELAD), and through the Trevi Group, consisting of Ministers of Justice and of the Interior. The European Council in Maastricht had also agreed to establish a European Drugs Monitoring Centre which would provide the Community and its member States with comparable data on narcotic drugs.

6. The European Community had designated the week of 16 to 22 November 1992 as European Drug Prevention Week. Among the activities planned for the occasion was a two-day conference in London on drug prevention. The Twelve were also cooperating with other European countries in that field, through the Council of Europe's Cooperation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Drugs (Pompidou Group). The European Council in Luxembourg had also agreed to establish a European criminal investigation office, to be known as Europol, with a drugs unit which would come into being on 1 January 1993.

7. The Twelve accorded high priority to preventing the use of precursor chemicals for illicit purposes and, to that end, continued to cooperate with the Chemical Action Task Force, which had successfully built on the provisions of article 12 of the 1988 Convention. In that context, the European Community supported the resolution passed by the Economic and Social Council in June 1992, which envisaged the transfer to UNIDCP of work currently done by the Task Force. The European Community had adopted legislation fully implementing the recommendations of the Chemical Action Task Force in relation to trade in precursor chemicals with third countries. It was also involved in the initiatives to secure application of those recommendations in other countries, particularly in Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America.

8. It was essential that all Governments should adopt legislation making the laundering of money derived from production of and illicit trafficking in drugs a criminal offence, and freezing and confiscating the assets of drug traffickers. The European Community supported the work done in that field by the Financial Action Task Force on Money-laundering and had prepared a directive, which would come into force on 1 January 1993, on the prevention of the use of Community member States' financial systems for the purpose of money laundering, which incorporated the core recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force.

9. The European Community believed that illicit trafficking in drugs could be reduced through improved cooperation between customs authorities, international carriers, exporters and importers, and had thus been fully involved in the Customs Cooperation Council's initiative in that area, set up at the request of the London Economic Summit in 1991.

10. The European Community and its member States would continue to cooperate with developing countries to assist them in combating drug abuse and the

(Mr. Richardson, United Kingdom)

illicit production and distribution of drugs. That commitment had been reflected in various recent cooperation agreements concluded between the European Community and developing countries.

11. Lastly, recognizing the importance of an integrated approach to all aspects of the drug problem, the European Community had made voluntary contributions to UNIDCP, and was providing substantial bilateral assistance for crops substitution, integrated rural development, and prevention and law enforcement in the field of drug abuse.

12. Ms. TAHIR-KHELI (United States of America) said that three years previously the international community had joined forces to declare war on the illicit drug industry, a scourge that constituted a grave threat to development, democracy and economic stability. The illicit narcotics trade was diversifying supply and opening up new markets: consumption of cocaine was on the increase in Europe, Asia and Africa, and traffickers were opening up new circuits in the newly independent States, in Eastern Europe, and in Afghanistan. The costs of that expansion in the illicit drugs trade could be measured in terms of escalating violence, crime, rehabilitation costs, lost productivity and weakened economies. Farmers had also to compete with rivals financed by narco-dollars. That expansion of the narcotic drug industry must be met with more coordinated and effective efforts at national and international levels within the United Nations system.

13. In the United States of America, the world's largest consumer of illicit drugs, the main problem was to bring about a reduction in domestic consumption. To that end, the Federal Government was funding programmes to the tune of $2.3 billion, double the level of only three years previously.

14. The past three years had seen a greater international political commitment to the fight against drugs, which had led to some significant changes. Those changes included a reduction in world-wide coca cultivation, and in opium production in Thailand, Laos and Mexico; increased political will in South-East and South-West Asia to take concrete action to combat narcotics production; the holding of the San Antonio Summit; and the destruction of a 6,000-hectare opium poppy plantation in Colombia. There had also been important advances in controlling the precursor chemicals necessary to produce cocaine, heroin and other drugs.

15. If progress was to be sustained, however, multilateral efforts were needed. It was thus encouraging to note that 14 additional countries had ratified the 1988 Convention, bringing the number of States parties to 69. Moreover, the Economic and Social Council had decided to bolster the Convention by adopting a resolution aimed at promoting maritime cooperation, and important progress had been made in cooperative efforts to curb drug money laundering.

(Ms. Tahir-Kheli, United States)

16. Her Government was pleased to see that UNIDCP was playing a leading role in activities to curb the drug trade. It also welcomed the expansion of United Nations anti-drug strategies as reflected in the subregional projects launched in South-East Asia; the latter had set the stage for similar activities in other areas, including the newly independent States. She commended the Executive Director of UNIDCP for the flexibility he had shown in preparing a strategy for future initiatives. However, with an annual budget of approximately $80 million, the Programme could not be expected to fight such an enormous problem alone. Member States must energize the entire United Nations system.

17. There had been encouraging signs that the goal of making drug control an integral part of United Nations priority programmes was being achieved. For example, UNIDCP had held meetings in Islamabad and Beirut to identify regional drug problems and coordinate assistance. The meetings had included active participation by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Food Programme (WFP), as well as other donors and recipients.

18. Given the adverse effects of the drug trade on the economy, development, inflation, interest rates and currency reserves, there was a clear need for financial institutions and international organizations to become involved in measures designed to eradicate it. UNDP, whose main interest was development, should give high priority to combating drugs and ensure that development programmes did not help encourage drug production. When designing their programmes, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) should consider the impact on agriculture of the cultivation of the opium poppy, coca and cannabis, in order to promote agricultural development without, at the same time, encouraging the production of illicit crops. In view of the strong connection between food shortages, or the fear of shortages, and the increase in narcotics production and trafficking, WFP could link the provision of supplementary food rations for local farmers to crop substitution efforts.

19. Research should continue under the Programme on Substance Abuse of the World Health Organization (WHO) in several key areas, including street children, poly-drug use and perceptions on abuse, and the Programme should establish official contacts with national agencies to share the information they collected. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) should design projects aimed at children who were addicted, or at risk of becoming addicted, to drugs, particularly those living on the streets. Other United Nations agencies, such as the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), were making commendable efforts to rid the workplace of substance abuse; in that connection, she drew attention to the conference concerning drugs in the workplace held in September under the auspices of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and UNIDCP.

(Ms. Tahir-Kheli, United States)

20. Refugee groups were easy prey for the drug industry in countries such as Afghanistan; the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) could play an active role in Afghanistan and Pakistan by including drug-awareness campaigns in education programmes for returning refugees and by securing commitments from competent officials in the region to the objectives of the fight against drugs.

21. Her delegation encouraged the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UNIDCP to join forces to make the international community more aware of the environmental dangers posed by drug cultivation and production. At local level, field offices and resident representatives should take the drug problem into account in managing and planning programmes.

22. Given that the Member States had resolved to protect mankind from the scourge of drug abuse and illicit trafficking in drugs, her delegation urged all Governments to support a resolution designed to strengthen further the System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control, calling upon the individual agencies associated with the Action Plan to draw up their own implementing plans. Member States must lend their support and reaffirm their commitment through their representatives to the various United Nations agencies. Her country was ready to work with the United Nations and with other nations to increase the commitment, vigour and effectiveness of the world-wide war against drugs.

23. Mr. Krenkel (Austria) took the Chair.

24. Mr. SERRATE CUELLAR (Bolivia) said that drugs were a threat to democracy, development and peace. Nevertheless, it was in that context that the problem must be discussed, since the solution lay in strengthening the workings of those three elements. The fight against drugs must move from theory to practice, with less planning and more action, less debate and more results.

25. The importance attached to the issue appeared to be diminishing just when definite progress was being made; the Third Committee must re-examine the issue from the perspective of the social victims of drug trafficking and the social actors who were fighting to eradicate drugs. To begin with, a clear distinction must be drawn between victims and offenders. The international dimension of the problem had led to recognition of the need for differentiated treatment and wider acceptance of the concept of shared responsibility by the international community.

26. The three pillars of the anti-drug strategy pursued by his country were alternative development, interdiction and prevention. Alternative development was being pursued through short-, medium-, and long-term programmes. The short-term programmes sought to mitigate the socio-economic impact of crop reduction until long-term investments bore fruit. In the medium term, programmes were being developed to diversify production, with a view to strengthening export capacity and contributing to the country's food

(Mr. Serrate Cuellar, Bolivia)

security. Conservation of genetic, ecological and productive potential was being encouraged so that the process of reducing coca plantations and diversifying production would not have an adverse environmental impact.

27. Reducing coca production affected the poorest sectors of the population in particular and so it was vital to enhance the economic viability of the process. Substitute products must be cost-effective and to that end international cooperation was essential. In that connection, he stressed the importance of the enactment by the United States of America of legislation on Andean trade preference and the decision by the European Economic Community to include Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru in its system of tariff preferences, thus increasing the export opportunities for various agricultural and industrial products.

28. Her country was justifiably proud that it was meeting the world-wide threat posed by drugs by seeking concurrently to promote financial stability, economic development and social peace. It now had the lowest inflation rate in South America and hoped to be the first developing country to resolve the problem of commercial debt to foreign banks.

29. With regard to interdiction, Bolivia was carrying out an operation called "Largo aliento" whose central goal was to monitor the entire area where coca leaf was produced in order to prohibit the entry of precursors, to monitor movements of surplus coca leaf production and to prevent it from being carried to any paste and sulphate laboratories that might exist. A system of supervision of commercial transactions in chemical products likely to be used as precursors had been established, under which any company or plant using that type of product had to be registered and to obtain the necessary licence.

30. With regard to efforts to combat drug trafficking, mention should be made of two recent operations: "Tango", which had made it possible to disrupt the entire financial infrastructure, logistics and operations of a major criminal gang, and "Oso de Oro" which had led to the seizure of 700 kilograms of cocaine and the dismantling of a large factory which had been exporting more than one ton of drugs per week. In that respect, his delegation reiterated the crucial distinction between the indigenous coca farmer and his crop, on the one hand, and the drug trafficker and cocaine, on the other. The coca leaf had been traditionally used to treat more than 60 ailments in the Andes and had an important role in Bolivia's socio-cultural customs.

31. On the institutional front, in addition to existing organizations, a national council against drug abuse and illicit trafficking had been established in Bolivia, together with national commissions on illicit drug trafficking and commissions on alternative development and integrated prevention. With regard to integrated prevention of drug abuse, treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration, an extensive information, education and health programme was being carried out and far-reaching reforms had been made to the correctional and judicial systems.

(Mr. Serrate Cuellar, Bolivia)

32. It was unfortunate that sufficient priority had not been given to reducing the demand for drugs. In that regard, the United Nations system had a responsibility to undertake effective action to promote the United Nations Decade Against Drug Abuse and to achieve the goals that had been set for the Decade. It was also important to carry out a study on the concept of swapping debt for alternative development, as recommended in resolution 2 (XXXV) of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Lastly, it was vital to bear in mind at all times the ethical dimension of the fight against drugs.

33. Mrs. KABA CAMARA (Côte d'Ivoire) said that Côte d'Ivoire had set up an interministerial committee to coordinate the fight against drugs and had adopted laws instituting heavier prison sentences and fines for violations of drug legislation. Measures had also been adopted to speed up the extradition process and to prevent the laundering of money from drug trafficking.

34. Côte d'Ivoire was grateful for the assistance provided at the regional and national levels by UNIDCP and hoped that such assistance would intensify both in the area of prevention and in terms of the organization of the regional struggle.

35. Her delegation was of the view that a programme of research into the socio-economic and political consequences of the production, illicit trafficking and abuse of drugs could make it easier to adopt measures designed to reduce, or even stop such consequences. Whatever the case, it believed that an analysis of the social, economic and psychological causes of drug abuse and the factors affecting it would be extremely valuable for the adoption of a strategy at the preventive stage.

36. In Côte d'Ivoire two factors had been identified as contributing to drug abuse. Firstly, increased urbanization as a result of the rural exodus and immigration, which was changing social structures. The absence of any structure or social machinery to receive immigrants reduced the likelihood of their finding work. Hence the need to adopt measures to improve living and working conditions in rural areas, in order to check the rural exodus. The second element involved factors relating to individuals themselves and the influence of their milieu. The influence exerted on adolescents by their peers, school, sports and closest relationships could not be overemphasized. Parents and educators had the responsibility to protect adolescents and to inform them of the tragic consequences of drug use.

37. Her delegation wished to stress the importance of prevention through the organization of an intensive campaign against drug abuse during the current decade. The campaign must reach the most vulnerable sectors of society and involve the mass media, non-governmental organizations, schools, sports, health and religious centres, all types of associations and all of society's human resources.

(Mrs. Kaba Camara, Côte d'Ivoire)

38. Another aspect that caused deep concern was the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts to allow them to take their place in society. In view of the serious shortage of resources and qualified staff, the help provided by UNIDCP and WHO in training specialized personnel was most welcome. Drug treatment centres were needed to help those who wished to give up drugs, change their way of life and make a fresh start.

39. The Global Programme of Action provided for the mobilization of additional financial resources in support of United Nations activities to combat drugs. However, the Executive Director of UNIDCP had expressed concern over the inadequacy of the funds compared to the huge tasks entrusted to him. Her delegation believed that in order to attain the objective of the Global Programme of Action it would be necessary to devote part of the funds confiscated from drug traffickers to financing the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control. There were already regional and bilateral agreements that provided for the distribution of the property confiscated and seized, although such measures remained incomplete as they disregarded the central control body. The laws and practices of each country, as well as bilateral and regional agreements should provide for the allocation of a fixed percentage of the funds confiscated to finance the Programme's activities. In addition, the developed countries should increase their voluntary contributions to the Fund to enable it to complete its projects in the poor countries and to support regional efforts and international cooperation. Unless the Organization had sufficient financial resources to underpin the struggle against drug trafficking, the consequences could prove disastrous.

40. Mr. JAEGER (Austria) said that the United Nations had never had so strong and effective a programme as UNIDCP and it was logical that individual States and groups of States should make more and more use of the experience accumulated by the Programme. Recently, the so-called Dublin Group (to which all the member States of the European Economic Community belonged, as well as the United States, Canada, Australia, Japan and Sweden) had asked UNIDCP to act as coordinator of their regional programmes for Eastern Europe; because of the Programme's multidisciplinary and world-wide approach, close cooperation had also developed with the Financial Action Task Force on money laundering.

41. Austria was in favour of such international cooperation since it could eliminate duplication and overlapping and increase the efficiency of every institution and organization involved, both at the national and global levels. However, in spite of the achievements of the Programme, there was no denying that each Member State must continue to take primary responsibility for combating drug abuse. Member States had guidelines which they could use for that task and there were a variety of international instruments to guarantee success in that field.

42. The Austrian Government was drafting amendments to its Narcotic Drugs Act of 1951 so that Austria would be able to accede to the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances. In the meantime, although it had not yet acceded to

(Mr. Jaeger, Austria)

the Convention, it had adopted Schedules I and II and applied all the control measures set out in the Convention. As for Schedules III and IV, various Austrian laws regulated the administrative and legal requirements, such as the legislation on pharmaceutical products and medical prescriptions, and Austria systematically submitted all the necssary information to the International Narcotics Control Board.

43. With regard to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 45/146, the Austrian Government was enacting new regulations on money-laundering activities, including concealment of the true nature of illicit transactions, transfers of assets and the use of profits derived from crime; once the new legal provisions were in force, Austria would be able to ratify the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. With regard to other implementing laws and regulations, the Secretary-General had listed Austria in his report (A/47/378) as one of the 34 States that were not yet parties to the Convention but were implementing various provisions of it.

44. As a result of the political, economic and social changes that had taken place in the countries of Eastern Europe, organized and transnational crime related to drug abuse was on the increase in the region. In 1991 there had been more heroin of a higher concentration and at lower prices on the Austrian illicit market. A large proportion had come from Eastern Europe, but the principal route remained the so-called "Balkan route". The number of drug-related crimes in Austria had increased by 11 per cent in 1991, and, what was worse, the number of drug-related deaths had increased by about 40 per cent. Unfortunately, the 1992 statistics available thus far reflected a similar situation.

45. Austria sought to combat the abuse of drugs and psychotropic substances on different levels, and one of its strategic objectives was to attack the drug trade at its most vulnerable point: the financial side. The change in Austria's penal code with regard to money laundering would give the Austrian authorities in that area an effective tool. Furthermore, institutionalized cooperation with various organizations of the United Nations system and with different international groups and bodies ensured that all the measures taken by Austria were coordinated at the international level. Regional cooperation in Europe would no doubt increase in the future, as had been recognized at the thirty-fifth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

46. The other traditional strategy in the fight against drug abuse involved reducing and controlling demand by various means. Austrian policy for many years had been to prevent rather than cure and to cure rather than punish; accordingly, information was provided to the population on the tremendous health risks of drug consumption. Priority was given to information campaigns aimed at young people, and the proposed changes to the Narcotic Drugs Act would reinforce that policy.

(Mr. Jaeger, Austria)

47. The Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control had made better use of the mass media one of its objectives. At the national level, the competent Austrian authorities had drawn up plans to seek more effective support from the media, in accordance with the Outline. As complementary measures, various forms of treatment with different therapeutic purposes were being provided, and the methadone treatment had been introduced in 1987. All those measures were intended to lead to total recovery from addiction and the reintegration of as many people as possible into society.

48. Mr. CAMPOS (Chile) said that his country fully supported the endeavours of the United Nations to tackle the serious problem of drugs. It was essential to maintain and reinforce joint international efforts, both bilateral and multilateral, inside and outside the United Nations system and at the government and non-governmental levels, to eradicate the harmful consequences of the drug scourge. It was essential that such joint action should be carried out within the legal framework of international law, since the fight against the drug trade could not serve as grounds for unlawfulness nor could it legitimize behaviour that violated the basic norms of coexistence which sovereign States had chosen voluntarily to observe.

49. His delegation considered General Assembly resolution 46/101 to be entirely valid and attached great importance to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, particularly to article 7. International legal cooperation played a fundamental role in the fight against drug trafficking, and for that reason Chile had joined in sponsoring resolution 4 (XXXV), which the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had adopted at its thirty-fifth session.

50. Chile had studied the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its thirty-fifth session with great interest and wholeheartedly endorsed the strategy for the United Nations International Drug Control Programme which it contained. Chile fully agreed that overcoming the drug problem in all its aspects required a global approach that would place the problem in a framework that took economic and social factors into account. While it was true that that scourge cut across all social strata, it could not be denied that in most States the problem was at its most severe in the poorest sectors of society. The social marginalization caused by poverty, the idleness generated by unemployment, the inadequacy of public services to meet the needs of growing urban populations, the lack of education and the absence of appropriate family models were among the factors likely to encourage drug abuse, production, trafficking and distribution. Chile also supported the adoption of a fresh perspective on the interaction between reducing the demand for illicit drugs and reducing their supply.

51. Undoubtedly, one of the most effective means of combating drug trafficking was adequate control of the manufacture, distribution, export and import of the chemical precursors without which drugs could not be produced.

(Mr. Campos, Chile)

To that end, Chile had vigorously supported, in the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the inclusion of ten additional substances in Tables I and II of the 1988 Convention. In the inter-American context, Chile was an active member of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) which was preparing a model regulation on chemical precursors. On the domestic front, the Chilean Congress was examining legislation that would set up strict controls on movement in and out of the country of chemical precursors and would severely punish their diversion.

52. Given of the complexity of the problems generated by drug consumption, production and trafficking, and since they had social, economic, cultural and sometimes political implications, it was important to take an overall view of such problems and adopt global policies and programmes. Endeavours must be combined and coordinated; to that end, every country should set up an interdisciplinary national commission or council to coordinate all such activities, in order to optimize resources and integrate the efforts of all parties. It was for such a purpose that the Chilean Government had established the National Council for the Control of Narcotic Drugs, an experience it wished to share.

53. From another perspective, the need to continue pursuing prevention policies and programmes must be stressed, for it was only to the extent to which all members of society truly understood the effects of drug use that determined whether that scourge could be eradicated. Chile was conducting activities on several fronts: for example, the Ministry of Education was implementing training programmes on prevention for classroom teachers, while the National Youth Institute and the National Office for Women had established information centres which had the prevention of drug use as one of their major tasks.

54. In view of the economic factors affecting drug production, his delegation wanted to see economic conversion programmes continued in geographical areas with significant production. By way of example, marijuana production in the Aconcagua Valley was far below 1960s levels because that crop had been replaced by hemp plantations, orchards and vineyards.

55. In the area of legislation, a special commission of the Chamber of Deputies had been working for over a year to draft legislation making money laundering a criminal offence. In the same area, the use and protection of undercover agents was currently being regulated, and the regulations on drug consumption were being harmonized with the United Nations Convention of 1988, which had been ratified by Chile as an Act of the Republic.

56. It was clear that drug trafficking and consumption had become an international issue. Consequently, all countries should make their drug legislation uniform. Disparities not only gave rise to major contradictions, but were taken advantage of by traffickers. Furthermore, given that some drug-related crimes were truly crimes against humanity, the international

(Mr. Campos, Chile)

community should express its will in the matter not only through extradition and law-enforcement assistance treaties, but also by making it possible to initiate criminal proceedings at the highest level. Likewise, international agreements should be reviewed so that such proceedings could be instituted for some narcotics offences in any State, regardless of where the offence was committed, in order to ensure prompt and effective justice and to demonstrate the international community's commitment to combating that scourge.

57. Mr. Dékány (Hungary), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

58. Mr. MOULTRIE (Bahamas), speaking on behalf of the States members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that all reports, including that of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1991, confirmed that the severity of the drug problem had not diminished. The need to strengthen and rationalize the international response to that phenomenon had been the major catalyst for the current United Nations strategy for drug abuse control, which had been made concrete through the establishment of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, among other things. From the reports of the Secretary-General on narcotic drugs, it was evident that the Programme was beginning to meet expectations for its leadership role in drug control within the United Nations system. The States members of CARICOM were in full agreement with the Programme's goal of establishing a drug abuse control agenda that was balanced in the principal areas of production, trafficking and demand with regard to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. They particularly supported the emphasis placed on demand reduction in order to achieve a balance in drug control activities.

59. Because of their location, the CARICOM States were particularly vulnerable to illicit traffic in narcotic drugs, which, it was acknowledged, could cause a dramatic increase in drug abuse in transit States. To attack that problem, Jamaica, in conjunction with the International Drug Control Programme, had developed an integrated demand reduction programme for the subregion which had been well received, especially by the major donors to the Programme Fund.

60. In view of the importance of an accurate assessment of the problem, the progress made by the Programme in the development of the International Drug Abuse Assessment System should be noted. The Caribbean Community continued to urge that drug abuse prevention strategies should include treatment and rehabilitation components. The strategies designed or expanded by the Programme would gain wide acceptance because they offered the prospect of meeting national, regional and international objectives for drug abuse control. The CARICOM States had received assistance from the Programme in elaborating national drug control master plans; however, such strategies must be complemented by effective interregional strategies, given the nature of the problem.

(Mr. Moultrie, Bahamas)

61. The Programme's emphasis on alternative development was particularly significant for developing countries implementing structural adjustment programmes and struggling to service their foreign debt. If initiatives in that sector were to succeed, the value of cash-crop substitutes must be close to that of the illicit crops they replaced if the standard of living of poor farmers was not to deteriorate further. Another essential factor was guaranteed access to international markets and fair export prices. Although the concept of debt-for-drugs swaps was not a new one, the members of the Caribbean Community urged the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to include a review of that idea in its report because of the advantages it could offer.

62. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme was responsible for coordinating activities in that area in order to ensure complementarity and to avoid duplication of efforts. The CARICOM States were confident therefore that the studies currently being conducted by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and by WHO on women and drugs would not lead to any such duplication.

63. The CARICOM States agreed with the approach taken by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to its work at its thirty-fifth session. They welcomed in particular the Commission's decisions on its new monitoring responsibilities vis-à-vis the Global Programme of Action and the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control as well as the budget-related activities outlined in paragraph 30 of document A/47/378.

64. The CARICOM States believed that the international drug control regime could only be effective if consideration was given to all international treaties on that subject. Some of those States had taken legislative action in anticipation of the adoption and entry into force of the 1988 Convention, and some States still reviewing that instrument had heeded the call to apply it provisionally. Thus, the comprehensive legal assistance to States provided by the International Drug Control Programme was very important. One aspect of particular interest was the organization of legal workshops for the Caribbean subregion and support for the drafting of model legislation to promote uniformity in the implementation of the Convention.

65. In the four years since its adoption, concrete action had been taken to implement specific articles of the Convention. At the thirty-fifth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, it had been proposed that a review of article 17, "Illicit traffic by sea", should be initiated. In the view of the CARICOM States, it would be useful to study the experience gained before taking further measures at the current stage. They also wished to see greater attention paid to the provisions of article 10 of the Convention, which concerned them directly as transit States.

66. The international drug control treaties laid down obligations which States undertook in order to control a transnational problem. By its nature, drug abuse control raised questions of jurisdiction and sovereignty. The

(Mr. Moultrie, Bahamas)

CARICOM States were of the opinion that all problems arising in the drug control field could be addressed in accordance with international law and they had no doubt that the Programme would work in conformity with accepted principles and norms.

67. The States of the Caribbean Community had taken note of the fact that the Intergovernmental Expert Group on the Economic and Social Consequences of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, which had been convened in 1990, had been able to make recommendations only on the part of its mandate relating to money laundering and had left pending the question of availability of reliable data owing to the lack of such data. For that reason, the study undertaken by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Defence in conjunction with the United Nations University and with the financial support of UNIDCP was important.

68. International Narcotics Control Board was one of the most important bodies in its field. The Caribbean Community noted that the system of licit control supervised by the Board continued to work satisfactorily and commended the Board for its assessment of the drug control situation world wide. In view of the important work carried out by UNIDCP, the Programme should be given the resources necessary to carry out its functions. He urged those countries in a position to do so to increase their contributions to the Fund of UNIDCP.

69. Mr. Krenkel (Austria) resumed the Chair.

70. Mr. MONTAÑO (Mexico) said that the only real choice in dealing with the problem of narcotic drugs was multilateral cooperation, at the regional or global level. All the measures that had been adopted for that purpose by the United Nations had been effective. In that connection, the consolidation of UNIDCP was an important step towards strengthening international cooperation in combating the various aspects of the phenomenon of narcotic drugs.

71. The changes that had occurred in recent years in the conceptual approach to the problem of narcotic drugs had enabled the consumer, producer and transit countries to act in a coordinated manner and make use of the opportunities provided by multilateral cooperation. Nevertheless, there was a need now for new multilateral mechanisms that took account of the diversified use of narcotic drugs and related offences.

72. At the regional and the subregional levels, the harmonization of legislation and the exchange of logistic support systems, inter alia, had made it possible to find joint medium-term solutions. Nevertheless, regional efforts lacked communication systems making it possible to achieve maximum efficiency and required support in that area.

73. The international community had always attached priority to the control of illicit drug trafficking; and the various international instruments adopted by the United Nations were proof of that. Nevertheless, it now seemed that

(Mr. Montaño, Mexico)

the crises that had occurred since the end of the cold war had lessened the interest of world public opinion with regard to that question. The enormous capability of the criminal organizations engaged in illicit drug trafficking to resist international action, nevertheless, made it necessary to redouble efforts and clearly demonstrate the determination of the international community. The time had come to carry out an in-depth evaluation of the programmes implemented during the past seven years in order to find definitive solutions to the problem.

74. His delegation, in consultation with other interested delegations, was preparing a proposal, to be submitted to the Committee for its consideration, which defined the basis for carrying out such an evaluation in the spring of 1993 and reorient cooperation in that field.

75. The information provided by UNIDCP on national projects to reduce demand through preventive education in some developing countries was very useful and should be complemented with information on prevention, control and suppression of illicit drug trafficking in industrialized countries. Since demand, cultivation, production and illicit trafficking continued to increase throughout the world, there was also a need for information on the comparative results of the measures taken under the Programme.

76. Although his Government had taken numerous steps to combat drug trafficking, it was aware of the fact that it still had to adapt its policies in order to make them more effective. The efforts made by Mexico and other countries at the national level would be enhanced through the elaboration of an international convention on illicit demand reduction, as had been proposed in the Global Programme of Action adopted in 1990, as well as the establishment of an international system to evaluate drug abuse and demand reduction.

AGENDA ITEM 94: ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (continued) (A/C.3/47/L.21, L.22 and L.23)

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.21

77. Mrs. RALETICH (Canada), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.21, entitled "Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat", said that Liechtenstein and the Republic of Korea had joined the sponsors and pointed out that, in spite of the progress made in improving the status of women in the Secretariat, the representation of women in senior-level posts was still insufficient. The draft resolution enjoyed the broad support of delegations and it was hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.22

78. Mrs. HUKTAMAKI (Finland), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.22, entitled "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women", said that Costa Rica, Greece and Sri Lanka had joined its sponsors. There were two oral amendments to paragraph 17. In the second line, the phrase "forty-eighth session" should be replaced by the words "forty-ninth session"; and in the third and fourth lines, the phrase "and to transmit the report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-seventh session" should be replaced by the phrase "and to make the report available to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-ninth session".

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.23

79. Mr. QURESHI (Pakistan), introducing on behalf of the Group of 77 draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.23, entitled "Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women", stressed the importance of the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held in Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995, and the participation of women in preparations for the World Conference on Human Rights, as indicated in paragraphs 8 and 10 of the draft resolution. A revised version of paragraph 25 would be submitted in written form at a later date. It was hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.